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Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (right) looks at a map yesterday while listening to explanations from National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon during a visit to Ma'aleh Ephraim. (AP)

PM: No settlements will be evacuated

By JAY BUSHINSKY

With Israel's heartland spread before him to the Mediterranean Sea, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu declared yesterday from a strategic West Bank overlook in Peduel that all Jewish settlements must remain under Israeli control.

"We will not evacuate any settlements," stated Netanyahu, who added that all the settlements should remain within security zones to be demarcated in maps being prepared for submission to US President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"There isn't a single settlement that was established by chance or whim," intoned Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, one of six other cabinet ministers on the tour who addressed his colleagues as their guide, military expert and strategic mapmaker.

"We began to settle this area in 1967," Sharon went on, as fellow-ministers peered at the colorful vista below through olive-drab military field glasses.

Glancing to the left and right at the sister settlements gripping the steep Samaritan hills or straddling their crests as Peduel does, Sharon said that those form an Israeli demographic continuity along the former armistice line.

The vantage point chosen for Netanyahu and his fellow travelers was the backyard of Ya'acov Fried's spacious home on Peduel's western perimeter. Their stop was part of an afternoon tour whose participants also included Internal

Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav, Interior Minister Eli Yishai and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat dropped out en route while Foreign Minister David Levy stayed in Jerusalem because of the budget debate, said Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak.

Sharon said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had intended to join, but was prevented from doing so at the last minute.

"He agrees fully with my position anyway," Sharon said.

The high-level and heavily protected group was studying the situation from the ground up, just as it had surveyed it from the air five days earlier.

It was greeted by local residents who prepared colorful placards that bore such slogans as "Am I Secure in the National Camp?" - "You Were Elected to Safeguard the Land of Israel" - "Peace Does Not Emanate From Oslo" - "Reciprocity?"

Netanyahu was ebullient as he ambled along wearing a blue field jacket with a furry broad collar. He turned to a waiting reporter and asked jocularly, "Haven't you been here before?" and followed his query up with, "I've been here many times."

In a serious vein, Netanyahu vowed that "we won't go back to being a country that is only 10 kilometers wide. These ridges are essential for our defense."

Pointing at the ancient and picturesque Palestinian Arab village of Deir Balut directly below, Sharon recalled that it was one of the area's springboards for terrorism.

He recalled that in the War of Independence, the entire area was occupied by the Iraqi army and that it was only after the Israeli-Jordanian armistice was negotiated that it was taken over by Jordanian armed forces.

He expected Deir Balut and all

other Arab towns and villages within the projected security zone to continue to receive administrative services - health, education and public works - from the Palestinian Authority, "as if they had remained in Area B."

Referring to the need for a security zone parallel to the Jordan River as well, Sharon said its proposed width of 20 km. was minimal for defense purposes.

"Any American general would expect the requisite operational depth of a single armored division to stretch back 50 km. and the operational depth of an armored corps to extend 150 km.," he said. In the latter case, "that would mean deploying our tanks in the Mediterranean Sea."

This analogy was cited as proof that his proposed security zones' depth was "modest."

Chief rabbi condemns pig plot in letter to Arafat

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER, DAVID RUDGE, and news agencies

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron sent a letter yesterday to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat strongly condemning the alleged plot by Jewish extremists to throw a pig's head on the Temple Mount.

Bakshi-Doron said he had heard with sorrow of the despicable plot by those who wanted to increase tension between believers. He condemned every evil attempt or thought intended to harm peace and brotherhood, adding he is sure that the belief in one God, the Creator of all, would bring the two peoples closer to peace.

Suspect Avigdor Eskin has denied involvement with the plot. According to his lawyer, Nafali Wurzberger, when he was approached with the idea, Eskin said, "It's a stupid idea and not worth taking a risk for."

Wurzberger, who met with Eskin yesterday for the first time since he was arrested eight days ago, said he was subjected to a "very tough investigation" the first four days.

See RABBI, Page 6

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the Ministry of Finance appeared locked in conflict last night, with the Treasury refusing to provide additional funding to cover promises made by Netanyahu to his coalition partners.

Throughout yesterday MKs and party delegations left Netanyahu's office claiming he had approved their budgetary demands in return for promises to vote with the coalition in the second and third readings of the 1998 budget and economic arrangement bills.

PM reverses health reforms, Page 2

However, last night Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said no funding was being made available for such agreements.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said last night that nothing has been finalized. "Negotiations

are ongoing so there's nothing ready for publication yet," said Bazak. "As soon as there is something, we'll let you know."

Netanyahu and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman spent the day locked in negotiations with coalition MKs to gain their support for the budget at the least expense.

The budget arrangements bill was reintroduced into the Knesset

pleum yesterday, with coalition MKs saying the state budget would be approved on time, namely before January 1. The bill was accidentally withdrawn from the plenum to the Knesset Finance Committee on Thursday night, only for committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) to return it to the plenum. Labor was yesterday moving to

try to postpone a vote on the arrangements bill until next week.

"There is an agreement that the budget itself will be voted on by Wednesday [December 31], but the economic arrangements bill will only be voted on next week, if we have our way," said MK Haim Ramon (Labor).

See BUDGET, Page 2

Costs, benefits and limits of payoffs

ANALYSIS

By SARAH ROMIG

The anarchic, oft-stumbling coalition's chances of surviving the budget ordeal improved somewhat yesterday, when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu began doing what all of his predecessors have always done - namely paying off some of the extortionists threatening his political life and business.

For now, the odds are that they will back off.

But the difference between Netanyahu and his predecessors is that with them the payoff was all it took. Time-honored tradition usu-

ally means that throwing some fiscal caution to the wind will win the prime minister a measure of political protection. In Netanyahu's case, this is not automatic.

If all he had to deal with was paying protection money to the coalition mob, he would breathe easily. The trouble is that in his case money cannot buy all. His

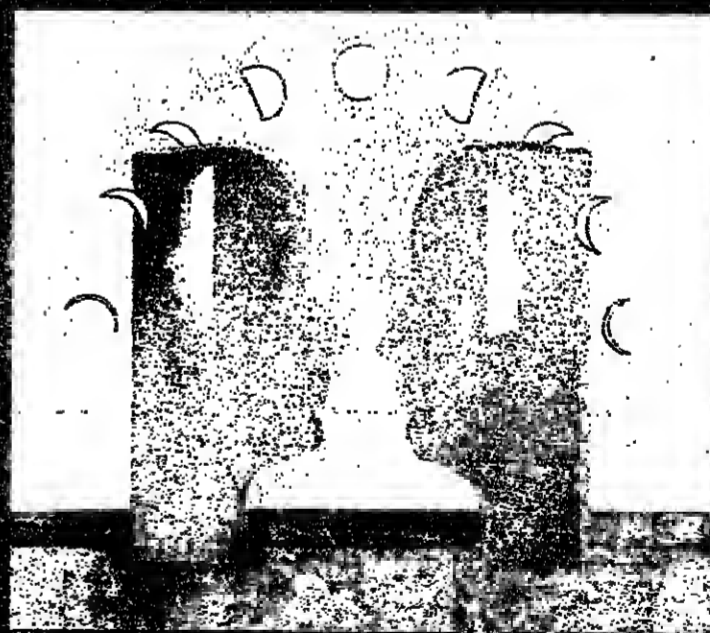
particular misfortune is that fate has combined the annual budget rite with a wrenching ideological rift within his coalition.

The firebrands and diehards who uncompromisingly oppose any further redeployment will not be bought off with additional budget allocations.

The Land of Israel lobby's "Force 17" will continue linking the crucial budget vote to redeployment, and Netanyahu is fully aware of this.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2

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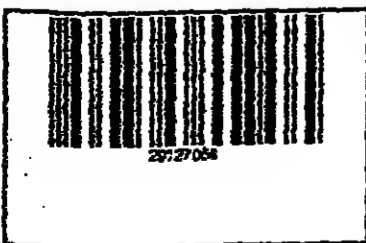
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NEWS

in brief

IAF attacks Hizbullah targets

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Shaffi and Soujud regions of south Lebanon in two separate raids yesterday. The IDF Spokesman said that the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and that in both cases the planes returned safely to their bases.

The attacks yesterday continued the recent marked increase in the use of the IAF to hit Hizbullah targets in an apparent attempt to hary the organization's front-line fighters and try to help keep them on a defensive footing. *David Rudge*

PA officials uphold call for international troops

Palestinian officials said they would continue to press for the deployment of international troops in the West Bank, despite Israel's rejection of a plan to do so unveiled by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat last week. PA negotiator Saeb Erekat said at the time that Arafat already had mentioned the concept of an international presence along the West Bank borders to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and that Arafat would raise the issue with US President Bill Clinton when they meet in Washington. *Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib*

Arafat names panel on legislation, corruption

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat appointed a committee yesterday to deal with ratifying amendments and alleged corruption, after Palestinian Legislative Council members threatened to resign by January 1 unless these issues were handled.

The committee, chaired by PA Secretary Ataiab Abdul Rahim, will review the ministries and authorize a subcommittee under PA Justice Minister Freith Abu Medein to review the legislation requiring approval.

Arafat also met with PLC members from his Fatah movement and discussed the means he intends to take to combat corruption within the PA. *Margot Dudkevitch, Mohammed Najib*

Weizman calls jubilee celebrations a waste

The country's troubled 50th anniversary celebrations took a broadside yesterday when President Ezer Weizman said they were a waste of money in light of the nation's growing economic difficulties. "I cannot be in favor of the 50th celebrations, even though I waited for them [and] I'm happy to still be around for them," Weizman, 73, told Channel 2.

"When I see Ofakim and Avivim and some other places, I think that spending millions of shekels on celebrations is not right," he added, referring to two development towns which recently made headlines for protests over high unemployment. *AP*

US Jubilee Committee expenses vindicated

An investigation has shown that expenses incurred by the American Jubilee Committee were justified, proper and properly submitted, the Prime Minister's Office announced yesterday. Not only were the expenses incurred on behalf of the Jubilee events, they were properly documented and presented, the report said. It also said that US Jubilee committee chairmen Merv Adelson and Marvin Josephson had spent "many thousands of dollars of their own money for which they claimed no recompense." *Helen Kaye*

C'ttee to decide on participation in Lisbon expo

A ministerial committee is to decide the extent of Israel's participation in Lisbon's Expo '98, the Israel Jubilee Association announced yesterday, following an appeal to the Prime Minister's Office by Foreign Minister David Levy. The association had cut the budget for Israel's participation from NIS 8 million to NIS 1m. Talk of canceling Israel's participation prompted an angry protest by Ambassador to Portugal Yehiel Yativ, who said non-participation would harm Israel's international standing, as well as relations with Portugal, which is due to take over the presidency of the UN Security Council. *Helen Kaye*

Bus driver, pedestrian killed

Beersheba bus driver Haim Shimoni, 32, was killed yesterday when a truck slammed into his bus as he was making a U-turn. The truck driver was arrested and then released on bail.

A 59-year-old pedestrian died of injuries suffered when a motorcycle ran into him as he was crossing Rehov Jabotinsky in Bnei Brak. The motorcyclist was admitted to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva with moderate injuries.

The driver of a car was injured after midnight yesterday when he lost control and it overturned at an intersection in Lod. The accident is under investigation.

A truck driver was lightly injured yesterday when a train struck his vehicle at an unmarked crossing on the Rehovot-Yavne road. *Itim*

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

Whether or not his rendition yesterday of a pro-settlement tune in perfect harmony with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon was sincere, its timing was no coincidence.

Coming just a few days before Wednesday's marathon budget debate, it was a loud message to Force 17, declaring in effect that the prime minister is a flesh of their flesh and as such shares their aspirations and trepidations.

It was as much an appeal for support as was the payoff to Health Minister Yehoshua Matza. But the currency in Matza's case was cold hard cash in tangible numbers. On the redeployment issue Netanyahu only spent words, and it is not certain that this coinage alone will suffice. Acerbic ideologue MK Ze'ev Begin is sure not to be mollified. Netanyahu has, however, most likely given up entirely on him. His goal now is to minimize the damage that Begin's refusal to support the budget bill would cause. He must chip away at Force 17's cohesion and at its resolve to link the budget and redeployment.

Specifically, this means Netanyahu must pry away the Tsomet faction and the pivotal NRP contingent from this link. If he gets them to support his budget, he could afford to lose a few Likud votes like Begin's or David Re'em's, which in any case are lost to him.

Factions like Geshet and Yisrael Ba'alya could probably be paid off. Netanyahu would like to do so in a manner which would not deprive him of his faithful and able finance minister, whose chief disadvantage is his lack of a parliamentary support base.

But such ostensibly fantastic feats have been repeatedly performed in past years. The trick this time will be to isolate the coalition's assorted Begin and trim their opposition to such diminutive proportions that they would just not matter.

That would take ingenious conjuring, considering this coalition's unruly disposition and extraordinary clumsiness. In the end it may only be the whip of a much dreaded early election which will belatedly awaken the coalition's self-preservation instinct and impose a modicum of discipline in its disorderly ranks. If that doesn't happen, yesterday's payoffs will buy no respite.

To Yona Edelman and family
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Zion and Jerusalem

PM agrees to reverse health reforms

By JUDY SEGEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has almost fully reversed Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's plans to change the national health insurance system—at least in promises he made yesterday to Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

But Matza insisted in a meeting with the premier yesterday that the commitments—whose source of funding has not yet been determined—be put down in writing in order for him to vote in favor of the state budget.

According to the Health Ministry, Netanyahu said the proposed ministerial committee on health, which the Knesset Finance Committee last week mandated to determine the composition of the

basket of health services, would not be established.

Matza opposed the establishment of such a committee, arguing that the mechanism would politicize the medical system.

Netanyahu also acceded to Matza's demands for a mandatory basket of health services, instead of the flexible basket Neeman had called for. However, the actual contents of this basket were not stipulated. The smaller its contents are, the more health fund members will have to pay in extra fees for services.

The premier also agreed to keep responsibility for preventive medicine services, including family health (tipat halav) centers, in the hands of the state, rather than having them transferred to the health funds. Matza argued that the

health funds are not oriented to prevention of disease, but only treating it, and that those health fund clinics that provided shots to infants showed a low vaccination rate. The public health doctors and nurses also opposed the proposal on the grounds that they would be fired.

Matza said that Netanyahu promised an additional NIS 500 million for the health system—NIS 450m. immediately and the rest by March.

In order to negotiate with Netanyahu, Matza cancelled a planned press conference scheduled for yesterday morning in the Knesset along with three of his predecessors, Ephraim Sneh and Haim Ramon (both of Labor) and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (Likud). The first two have voiced

their support for Matza in all his major demands, while Olmert expressed general backing for Neeman's views, except for the ministerial committee on health and the flexible basket of services.

The health minister did not advise Netanyahu on how to cover the deficit in the health system, but among the various measures being banded about in the Geshet Party and by others are a 0.1% to 0.2% increase in health taxes on income and a hike in cigarette taxes. The Netanyahu government and the Treasury have opposed such measures.

The strike called by the Israel Medical Association and other health unions, which began at 7 a.m. yesterday, was halted at 4 p.m. after the Tel Aviv District Labor Court reached a compro-

mise between them and the state. The unions were permitted to organize a protest demonstration opposite the Knesset scheduled for 11 a.m. today and to warn the government a minimum of 15 hours in advance of any labor sanctions, giving time for convening a labor court hearing. The unions will demonstrate against the proposed changes in the health system as favored by Neeman, saying they will not call off their protests until the commitments are ironclad.

The Pensioners' Association yesterday protested outside Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital against the proposed changes in the health system as advocated by the Treasury. These, said the pensioners, would force many of them to choose "between food and medical care."

Key changes to the arrangements bill

During the last week several key changes have been made to the 1998 budget proposal, which have either been incorporated in the budget arrangements bill or promised by the Treasury or Prime Minister's Office to coalition parties or individual MKs.

BUDGET '98

By DAVID HARRIS

All these proposals require approval on second and third readings of the budget and budget arrangement bills.

• Health - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza reportedly agreed yesterday that the Treasury would transfer NIS 500 million to the health funds to cover their combined deficit of NIS 1 billion to NIS 1.6b.

"This is just not the case," said Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef. He said that no one in the Treasury has approved such a transfer.

Netanyahu also agreed to abandon the idea of a ministerial committee on health. The basket of health services would remain fixed with any changes requiring ministerial approval.

Meanwhile MK Maxim Levy (Geshet) said after six hours of talks with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and senior civil servants, that the party was promised the basket would be uniform in each health fund, that it could not be reduced and that any increase had to be approved by both Matza and the Labor and Social Affairs Committee.

The family health centers (tipot halav) would

remain under government control. Levy explained that the Treasury would contribute NIS 500m. towards reducing the health funds' deficits, the funds themselves would find savings of NIS 350m., and the remainder would come from other sources. This could mean higher fees for medicines and doctors' appointments, according to Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism).

• Education - The National Religious Party claimed yesterday it had received a promise that the planned cut in education spending would be reduced from NIS 250m. to NIS 100m. Geshet, meanwhile, said its support for the government would depend on whether funding was forthcoming for long school days. Late last night Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy said that agreement was only likely to come today.

• Pensions - Ravitz said he had received a fresh proposal from the Treasury concerning pensions. Those paying National Insurance contributions for ten years or more ahead of retirement, currently receive an additional 2 percent each year up to a maximum of 50% of the entire pension. The Treasury wanted to cut

that to 1% per annum, to a maximum of 25%. The new proposal delivered to Ravitz yesterday would allow the maximum additional contribution to reach 30%.

• Child benefits - Having faced wall-to-wall opposition to the plan to cut NIS 500m. from child benefit payments, Neeman last week decided to withdraw this section from the budget proposals. In order to replace that cut, the Knesset Finance Committee approved an NIS 50m. reduction in payments to unemployed people who refuse to take work when offered. The Treasury was scheduled this morning to produce alternative proposals for the remaining NIS 450m. shortfall.

• Taxis - Too purchase a license, new drivers must pay a fee of some NIS 135,000. The Treasury proposed raising this to NIS 175,000. However, taxi drivers and company owners are calling for a fee of NIS 240,000 so as to limit competition. The Treasury yesterday sent a proposal to the Knesset Finance Committee to set the final fee at an index-linked NIS 205,000 - NIS 210,000 depending on experience.

• Capital-Investment Aid Law - The Treasury and MKs last week agreed that rather than lowering grants in priority A zones to 20%, the amount available should remain at 24% both in industry and tourism. In zone B areas, the grant would remain at 10%.

PA officials demand extradition of Fatah executioner

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Preventive Security officials yesterday demanded the extradition of Nasser Najj, 26, who last week was sentenced for the second time to nine life terms by an Israeli military court.

Najj, a Fatah member from the Amari refugee camp in Ramallah, was convicted of murdering 13 suspected collaborators in the Jericho area early in the decade. He was originally sentenced in 1994 to nine consecutive life terms, but was later released with 30 other Palestinian prisoners and deported to Jericho under the Oslo Agreement.

The terms stipulated that Najj was not allowed to leave the Jericho area, but on October 26, 1994 he was captured by IDF troops in Ramallah and last Wednesday he was resentence by the Beit El Military Court to nine life terms, plus three years and two months.

In passing sentence, Judge Maj. Arye Noah said that, for the remainder of his life, Najj could dwell on the fact that if he had abided by the conditions of his release he would have remained a free man.

In an unrelated development, Palestinian security sources claim that American officials had promised the return of two Tzurif terrorists recently apprehended near Nabulus by IDF troops. The sources claimed that Jamal Alhour, 27, and Ibrahim Ranimat, 39, were arrested as they were being taken from Hebron Prison to Nabulus Prison by Palestinian security officials.

At the time, Hamas claimed that West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub's cooperation with the Israeli authorities resulted in the arrest of the two terrorists. Rajoub denied the accusations, as well as claims he had decided to boycott the trilateral security meetings between Palestinian, Israeli, and US officials because of the arrests.

Meanwhile, Arutz 7 reported yesterday that, on a recent visit to the US, Rajoub purchased \$160,000 worth of electronic monitoring devices. According to reporter Hagai Huberman, the electronic eavesdropping system can monitor cellular telephone conversations over a range of many kilometers. The system is also capable of monitoring IDF military cellular phones as well.

The report claimed that, when asked by US officials why he needed the high-tech surveillance equipment, Rajoub said he needed it to monitor his rivals. The system enables the monitoring of 20 cellular telephone calls simultaneously and can pick up specific phones every time a call is made. According to Arutz 7, the Palestinians are operating a similar system in the Samaria region.

Several months ago the IDF prohibited troops from using cellular phones in Lebanon after it was discovered that Hizbullah was monitoring cellular phone calls and had obtained information, including the position of troops, from them.



A helping hand
A soldier helps two young cancer patients light a Hanukkah yesterday at a party at an Army post on Mt. Hermon sponsored by the Kav LeHaim organization, which arranged a trip to the North for a group of six to 16-year-olds suffering from cancer. *(Avi Shapira/Israel Sun)*

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

"That's impossible," retorted coalition whip Meir Sheerit (Likud), who added that the coalition would use Knesset regulations to ensure that both votes take place no later than Wednesday night.

As a result of negotiations yesterday the Knesset Finance Committee was scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. today to vote on Treasury-proposed changes to the key health chapter of the arrangements bill, and a variety of other alterations.

Debate on the proposed budget itself was also expected to begin. The latest stage of voting on the arrangements bill was set for 3 p.m. today.

While technical decisions were being taken in the Knesset, the real action was unfolding in the offices of Netanyahu and Neeman, where successive meetings were held with a host of factions, in order to try and ensure a government majority for the budget.

Meanwhile, Geshet MK Maxim Levy said his faction will continue to refrain from voting with the government until its demands are written into the budget. Levy spoke after more than six hours of talks with Neeman, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon and Treasury Director-General Shmuel Slavin.

Levy and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza both left the prime minister's office yesterday claiming they had been promised NIS 500 million to cover the health funds' deficit of more than NIS 1 billion. Matza told reporters he would support the government as long as he had Netanyahu's agreement in writing.

Asked where additional funding would come from, Ravitz said the reported agreement between Netanyahu and Matza could very well lead to higher bills for medicines and doctor's fees.

Sheerit suggested a progressive increase in direct health taxation from 4.8% to 5.8% based on levels of income, to wipe out the health funds' burgeoning deficits.

"I don't understand what's so holy about not raising taxes, if the people want this kind of health service, then they should pay for it," said Sheerit.

An alternative way of sticking to a target budget deficit of 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product, could be tapping the nation's budgetary reserves, Sheerit said.

Shas leader Aryeh Deri last night explained why that party had backtracked from its demand for a ministerial committee on health matters. Deri said he and the party's spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef had sought such a committee when they feared that individual health funds would have the leeway to juggle their basket of services.

Deri said he dropped the demand after suspecting that Matza was using it as a lever to gain extra funding.

"When I saw that I immediately said we don't want to be part of that and agreed with the prime minister to shelve the idea. This government has our full support and we don't want to see it lose," Deri said.

The NRP expects to have most of its demands met today. Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy said last night. "We're close to a conclusion and we're hopeful we'll get the funding for education and roads [in Judea and Samaria]."

Yisrael Ba'alya was expected to meet this morning to decide its stand on the budget after telling Netanyahu that unless its demands were met by today it would not vote with the government. Its key request is that state mortgage aid be updated for the first time in five years. Geshet is also demanding more funds for mortgages.

MK Haggai Merom (Labor) alleged that Netanyahu's reported agreements to add funding for health, education and housing "will cost the government billions and billions of shekels."

"I don't think it'll reach such numbers," said Sheerit. "Politics is often the art of compromise. The question is how to satisfy demands without giving up everything."

Speaking in Holon last night, Netanyahu suggested that the final bill would be considerably less

than opposition and media estimates of NIS 2 billion to NIS 3b.

"On my way here I heard the parties are requesting billions—that's just not correct," said Netanyahu. "In any case they're not requesting the money for themselves. Each one is representing a group, usually the weak."

Opposition MKs also demanded yesterday for coalition agreements to be shown to the Knesset plenum.

"The Knesset and the people have the right and need to know what's been promised to whom and how much," said Meretz leader Yossi Sarid.

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Court orders GSS to detail probe of bomber's relative

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday gave the General Security Service 48 hours to show a detailed log of interrogation methods used on Fuad Kur'an of el-Bireh, the brother-in-law of a man wanted on suspicion of masterminding suicide bombings.

Kur'an, a student at Bir Zeit University, was detained on December 10 and has been held in isolation.

The order from Chief Justice Aharon Barak, and Justices Tova Strassberg-Cobben and Dalia Dorner, was described as precedent-setting because of the kind of details that the GSS was asked to reveal. Until now, it was generally accepted that the GSS could use "moderate physical pressure" a recommendation encoded by the Landau Commission which probed GSS interrogation methods in 1987.

Kur'an's attorney, Allegea Pacheco, charged that during a "waiting" stage, Kur'an has been placed on a small chair, slanted into the small of his back, handcuffed hand and foot, and has had a thick sack placed over his head

while loud music was played in the cell. This stage, which can be alternated between tying the suspect to a pipe and handcuffing him, lasts one to five days, she said.

Pacheco petitioned the court on Thursday, in the name of the Committee Against Torture, to be permitted a visit with Kur'an who has not yet met with a lawyer, and to have the torture stopped.

In a closed-door hearing on Friday, the court rejected the first request but ordered the GSS to bring its log to court yesterday. Pacheco said that the GSS brought only a summary of the log.

The session was again heard in camera, when justices ordered the GSS to bring in a full log and the "rationale" for every stage of interrogation within 48 hours, she said.

A military judge was to go to the Russian Compound in Jerusalem where Kur'an is being held to hear a state request today for extension of his detention. The ban on meetings between Kur'an and his lawyers is also due to expire today.

Ra'an Cohen is new Labor secretary

By SARAH HONG

As expected, Labor Knesset Faction Head Ra'an Cohen was last night elected by a landslide as his party's secretary-general.

His main opponent, former MK Eli Dayan, and others who dropped out of the race, charged that the proceedings were rigged and that Labor chairman Ehud Barak had early on chosen Cohen and then loaded the odds overwhelmingly in his favor.

In all, 76 percent of Labor central committee members cast ballots for Cohen.

The result was regarded as such a foregone conclusion that the central committee session at Pavillion 28 of the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds - the site of November's ill-fated Likud convention - was sparsely attended.

Candidates' speeches injected no excitement into the election.

Dayan also sought in vain to boost his chances by sponsoring a dance troupe performance, while Cohen's supporters handed out stickers and balloons.

The only issue to generate some lively speculation was who would succeed Cohen as faction chairman, a post he is expected to give up. The leading contenders are MKs Dalia Itzik and Eli Goldschmidt.

Goldschmidt is seen as Barak's favorite, although he dropped out after accusing Barak of unfair interference on Cohen's behalf.

Another dropout, MK Hagai Merom, said yesterday that the "Labor party's all-powerful steamroller was switched into high gear yet again. Barak got



Labor Party MK Ra'an Cohen (right) glows with delight after being pronounced winner of an election for party secretary-general yesterday. He is congratulated by defeated candidate, former MK Eli Dayan (left). (Yael Somesh/Israel Sun)

Palestinian PRESS REVIEW

By MICHA SELA

On Athens and redeployment maps

MK Meir Sheerit surprised both Israelis and Palestinians when he spoke at a conference in Athens about a Palestinian state and the possible evacuation of a few Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

"Likud members have discovered that Oslo has become a fact on the ground," Hassan al-Batal wrote in *al-Ayyam*. The main issue, according to al-Batal, is not a map by one general or another, nor is it a matter of what the settlers would like.

"The problem is that the Palestinians reject both maps," he said.

Israel occupied the Palestinian territories, but "it lost the war of words, the sword is now in the hands of the Palestinians." He also criticized Sheerit for going only half way. Al-Batal wrote that it was impossible to separate between a "personal" opinion and the party's official opinion, as Sheerit tried when he urged the Palestinians to choose between a Palestinian state and Jerusalem.

Sheerit's position, together with those of MK's Maxim Levy and Yehuda Lankri, are a deviation from the traditional Likud platform, observed Hani Habib in *al-Ayyam*. Netanyahu might need these new voices to support his own maps in case of opposition inside the government.

Nevertheless, the statement issued at the close of the Athens conference did not touch on the key problems: settlements and Jerusalem. Habib is concerned, not about Netanyahu's position, in saying that the West Bank is part of Israel, but that of the Americans who have said that the area was open to negotiation, a position which runs against the spirit of the Oslo accords.

The general criticism of Netanyahu's declaration was a natural reaction, *al-Quds* editorialized. What puzzled *al-Quds* was the ambiguous US position. "Why have American sources been content with saying that the future of the West Bank is an issue for debate, which would be decided through negotiations? why have they not honestly declared that these are occupied Palestinian territories?" it said.

This attitude, according to *al-Quds* "might encourage Israeli extremists and lend support to threats against the peace process." The time-out given Netanyahu to settle differences of opinion inside the government to pass Israel's budget, is nothing but a change from a "permanent freeze to an official temporary freeze," on the peace process, *al-Quds* added.

The paper was also not optimistic about whether progress would be made in peace talks even after the budget crisis is resolved.

"There have been moments without any crisis since the government came to power. Nevertheless, it has not moved one step forward," the newspaper said. Until recently Palestinian com-

mentators often have claimed that only American pressure could prod the Israeli government forward. Yet, the US statements of late do "not exceed the pressure of a loving mother to her only child," wrote Abdallah Awwad in *al-Ayyam*.

Awwad called for the Palestinians to stand strong against any attempts by Israel and the US to come to an arrangement that would in effect cancel some of the conditions of the Oslo Accords.

"The Palestinians know exactly what they want at the end of the road, a Palestinian state on the 1967 lands. Except for Jerusalem it is the Israelis who have not yet given an answer to the 'sovereignty vacuum' question, and they are in continuous debate over it," Awwad wrote.

Awwad said that from what he noticed in the Israeli debate, it seems that Israel was trying to revert 30 years to the Allon Plan. He alleged that Washington and Tel Aviv were trying to arrange final status negotiations based on their joint interests.

"Therefore, it is exaggerated to call the current contacts between Washington and Tel Aviv pressure on the Hebrew state," Awwad wrote. He added that "the pressure which seems to be currently exercised on Israel will be nothing compared to the pressure which will be exercised on the Palestinians."

Summarizing the endless debate over how Israel wants to divide the West Bank into Palestinian enclaves surrounded by Israeli territory, Taysir al-Zubari suggested in *al-Ayyam* that "if they have their expansionist maps, ... why should not we come up with our own national maps, and say openly, ... we insist on an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories ... according to a limited timetable ... without which there will be no peace settlement."

The Hamas press

The Hamas weekly *al-Risala*, which the Palestinian Authority closed down after the suicide bombings last summer in Jerusalem, is back on the market.

It editorialized this week that joint American-Israeli pressure has become more sophisticated, with both countries trying to draw the Palestinians into final status negotiations, "after drinking the Palestinian Authority's blood for three years of a futile interim stage."

Criticizing the PA for failing to come up with counter-maps, *al-Risala* warned against falling into a trap set by the Americans and the Israelis. "This is a dangerous turn in the road, very dangerous," he wrote.

It should be mentioned, that *al-Risala* publishes more original stories than other Palestinian newspapers about Israeli society, rather than simply translating from the Hebrew press. This week, for example, it carried a story about Netanyahu's benefactor Irving Moskowitz. Another story quotes Israeli research about discrimination faced by Ethiopian Jews in Israel.

what he wanted - a docile yes-man."

Dayan remarked that he "had not been defeated in a one-on-

one contest. The might of the party establishment was against me."

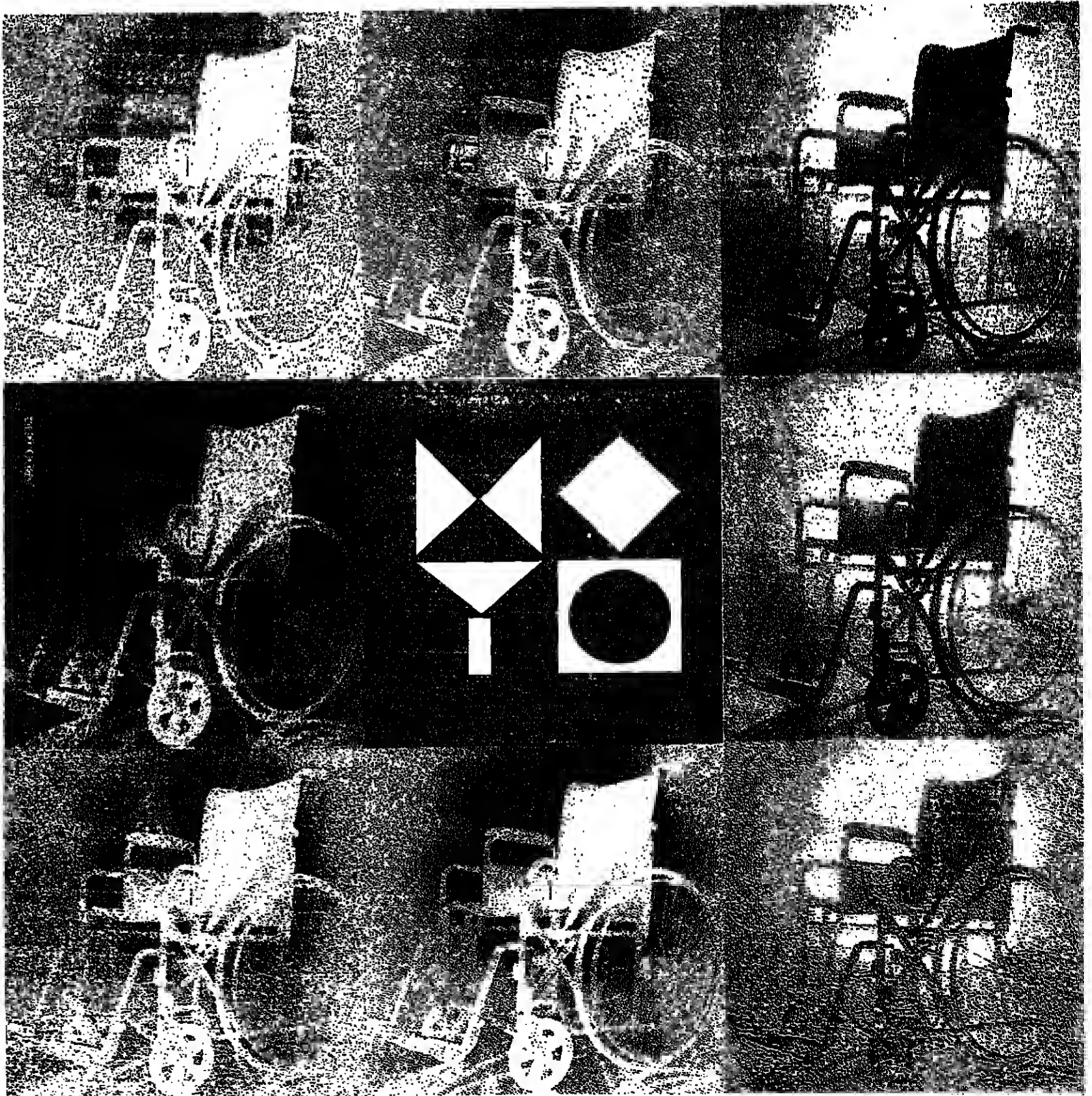
Cohen said that "the best man

won. I triumphed because of my proven track record."

Cohen is expected to be a weaker secretary-general than

his predecessors, said sources, who believe that Barak will delegate less authority than have other party leaders.

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the israel museum, jerusalem

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Head of Mossad interrogation testifies as prosecution stage opens in Gil trial

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The prosecution stage in the trial of Yehuda Gil, the former Mossad agent charged with falsifying information, opened in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

The head of the Mossad interrogation division testified in a four-hour, closed-door hearing.

Gil, 63, of Gedera, is being

charged with giving false information to the Mossad with the intention of damaging national security, a crime which falls under the espionage law.

He also is charged with theft by a civil servant and fraud. Gil has denied the charges.

Gil's lawyer Yigal Shapira said they will argue that the Mossad's evidence is not admissible in court

since it was not taken in the right way.

The charge sheet accuses Gil of giving the Mossad false information about Syria's positions on the peace talks.

The information, which was regarded as very important by the intelligence community, had a major effect on national security, according to the charge sheet.

In his interrogation, Gil admitted he gave false information, but claimed it was not information that could damage national security, according to Shapira.

Gil was recruited by the Mossad in 1970 and retired in 1989. Since then, he has worked on special contracts.

The trial is to resume on January 8.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv District Court is to decide today on whether to lift the publication ban on Gil's picture. *Ma'ariv*, *Yedioth Aharonot* and Channel 1 submitted the requests.

Three weeks ago, the court lifted the publication ban on Gil's name, but objected to the publication of his picture so as not to "harm state security."

Weizman aide promises 250 new jobs for Ofakim

By BATSHEVA TOUR

Accompanied by three dozen industrialists, Beit Hanassi director-general Arye Shumer yesterday returned to Ofakim, pledging to bring some 250 new jobs to the southern town beset by rampant unemployment.

The visit came a mere week-and-a-half after President Ezer Weizman visited the town and offered to do his best to bring entrepreneurs to create new work places.

"We are not acting instead of the government but alongside it," Shumer said yesterday.

"Starting [today] interviews will begin for some 250 new jobs in Ofakim, but not just in

Ofakim," Shumer said. Beit Hanassi will search "in the rest of the South as well. There will be follow-up."

Shumer said that he hoped to see "two or three" new enterprises started in the area within the next three months. At the same time, strong emphasis would be put on education, he said, adding, "I see optimistic young people here."

Shumer said that among the businesses planning to move to or open a branch in Ofakim and its surroundings are the Supersol and Coop supermarket chains, meat industries, hi-tech industries, an insurance company and a company which would provide security guards for the new Israel

Electric Corporation plant being built.

Ben-Gurion University President Avishai Braverman said that his Beersheba institute is looking into ways of creating jobs for Ofakim residents.

Soroka Hospital head Emanuel Katz also promised that he would seek posts for the Ofakim unemployed.

Chambers of Commerce head Danny Gilerman, who joined the tour, said the South has no future unless the government is prepared to invest in modern infrastructure and, in particular, railways and roads.

He called on the government to take emergency measures before passing the new budget.

Israel Automotive workers protest threatened layoffs

By DAVID RUDGE

Workers from Israel Automotive Industries in Upper Nazareth burned tires and disrupted traffic near the factory entrance yesterday in protest against threatened layoffs.

Police detained works committee chairman Leon Peretz and later released him after he agreed to obtain police permits for any future demonstrations.

The demonstration erupted after workers were told that the Defense Ministry intended to dramatically reduce orders from the beginning of March, and that possibly dozens could be fired.

The announcement followed the closure recently of the Kitan textile factory in Upper Nazareth, which put several hundred people out of work.

Mayor Menachem Ariav was quoted on Israel Radio as saying that the demonstration was unnecessary because the ministry had promised to reconsider whether to increase its orders for 1998.

Unemployment reached an average 8.1 percent, or 179,000 people, during the third quarter of the year, the highest jobless total since April 1994, according to data the Central Bureau of Statistics published last month.



Athena unveiled

A bronze statuette of Athena, the Greek goddess of war, was uncovered recently by an underwater excavation sponsored by the Antiquities Authority. The second or third century CE statuette shows Athena wearing a helmet and toga and a pendant with the image of Medusa.

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page.

Animal groups blast gov't rabies policy

By LIAT COLLINS

Animal welfare groups yesterday accused the Agriculture Ministry's Veterinary Services of making the rabies problem incorrectly and called on it to provide cost-free rabies vaccines for one year to boost the number of immunized pets.

Dr. Amir Bor, chairman of the Israel Companion Animal Veterinary Association, told an emergency press conference that if the ministry would "provide the vaccine at cost price, NIS 3.50 per vaccination, the association's veterinary members would bring their fees for vaccinating."

"Today fewer than 60 percent of

dogs are vaccinated and a minimal number of cats," he said. "If such a campaign were held, 90 percent of the animals would be vaccinated within a year."

Bor accused the Veterinary Services of not allowing all licensed veterinarians to vaccinate against rabies. "This is a policy which is professionally negligent," he said. Former environment minister Yossi Sarid said this should be taken to the High Court as an infringement of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation.

Bor called on Chief Veterinarian Amnon Shimshoni to launch a public information campaign to prevent public panic and to encourage the vaccination and

neutering of urban animals.

Rivli Maier, head of the Cat Welfare Association, noted that in the past 20 years there have been 713 cases of rabies in animals, of them only 10 in cats - but the ministry's response has been mass poisonings of dogs and cats in urban centers, instead of encouraging programs to vaccinate and neuter pets and street cats.

"We don't say 'don't put down animals,' but we say it must be done humanely," she said. "Mass poisonings are not only cruel, they are inefficient." Maier said killing the animals instead of vaccinating them creates a vacuum into which potentially rabid animals can enter and come into closer contact with

bumans.

This was echoed by Tel Aviv University zoologist Dr. Eli Geffen, who spoke on the need for oral vaccinations of wildlife. He said mass killings make the disease spread faster, as it destroys dog family units of foxes, wolves, and jackals and makes surviving members wander into new territory.

He said vaccinating wildlife would mean that animals already rabid would not be able to pass the disease on. The rabid animals die within three weeks anyway, stopping the spread of the disease.

"The main reason that oral vaccines are not used here is the lack of budget and the Veterinary

Services' unwillingness to give it priority, despite the fact it has proven itself in Western Europe," Geffen said.

Animal welfare groups said the panic over rabies is being exploited to kill domestic animals and is leading to the mass abandonment of dogs and cats.

Agriculture Ministry spokesman Naftali Yaniv said in response: "Despite the attempts to incite against [Veterinary Services and municipal] veterinarians doing their job, action to rid the country of rabies will continue with the minister's support. The negative impact of those inciting against them has increased the danger of rabies, and we cannot agree to it."

El Al launches flight to nowhere

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The first of what could become a series of El Al flights to nowhere took off Saturday night from Ben-Gurion Airport, circled over the Mediterranean, and landed three hours later at the same airport.

The flight, officially known as Boeing on Air, is sponsored by the US aircraft manufacturer following El Al's choice of Boeing as the supplier for its new fleet of five medium-range aircraft.

Passengers included travel agents, representatives of foreign airlines in Israel, El Al officials, Boeing representatives and journalists.

The flight opened with a film of El Al director-general Yoel Feldschuh lighting Hanukka candles. Passengers enjoyed a meal of cheese, smoked salmon, bagels and doughnuts, with ice cream for dessert. They had a choice of five films with stewardesses serving popcorn.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said the flight to nowhere is seen by the company as a possible way of using aircraft that would otherwise be sitting idle.

The cost would be about \$100, he said, with flights arranged by companies wishing to treat clients or employees and determining the meals and type of entertainment. "We are even thinking about bar mitzva parties," Klieman said.

He said duty-free buying has not been worked out. El Al says that since they leave Israeli airspace, passengers should be able to buy duty-free items, like on a cruise ship. However, the customs authorities do not agree.



Scoring a mitzva

Maccabi Ramat Gan basketball player Lance Miller (left) and Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer player Alexander Obarov make a Hanukka visit yesterday to a patient at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital yesterday.

(Tamar Mizgri)

Police get standard warning to read to suspects

By BATSHEVA TSUR

"You do not have to say anything. Anything that you do say may be used as evidence against you. If you refrain from answering questions, this may strengthen the evidence against you."

This is the new standard text read to suspects before they are interrogated by the police or other law enforcers.

The new version, which was approved some two weeks ago by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel, already is being used, although it has not yet been anchored in law.

A number of changes in legislation and various court rulings led to variations in the warning presented to suspects, the Justice Ministry explained yesterday. It therefore became imperative to decide on a standard text. The variations between the warning presented to suspects before interrogation and that issued during detention also led to discrepancies, the ministry said.

Traditionally, it was accepted that a suspect would benefit from keeping silent. But this practice appeared to be becoming eroded in the light of certain court judgments that indicated that circumstantial evidence could be valid when a suspect had maintained his right to

silence.

A senior police interrogator said yesterday that the warnings police used had devolved from Mandatory rulings and were confusing to suspects who had no legal background. Asst.-Cmdr. Doron Betzer, head of the Interrogations Division in the National Police Force, said that suspects had been told, until the new text, "to answer all questions except those that could be incriminating." At the same time, the suspect was told that he had the right to silence.

The suspect often ended up making an "unprofessional choice" which was later used against him, he said in an Israel Radio interview.

Border Police gets new commander

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

After months of delay, a new commander, Lt.-Cmdr. Yitzhak "Jacques" Dadon, has been chosen to head the Border Police. Dadon, a veteran commander who has served with the national force since 1955, will succeed Cmdr. Israel Sedan on January 15, officials said yesterday.

Dadon, 46, currently deputy head of operations for National Police, was chosen during a weekend meeting between Internal Security

Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Inspector-General-designate Yehuda Wilk, a police spokesman said. He will be promoted to the rank of commander, the police equivalent of an IDF major-general.

Dadon will be taking over a corps whose image has taken a beating this year after a number of reported incidents of Border Police accused of mistreating Arabs. Despite these problems, there has been an increase in volunteers for the service, which supplies forces to patrol the Green Line.

The decision on a replacement for Sedan, who is retiring, was delayed for months, apparently to allow time for Wilk, the newly-appointed police chief, to make the designation.

Dadon served 20 years in the Border Police, as commander of the force in Judea and Samaria and as head of the Jerusalem District. Two years ago he transferred to the Israel Police and assumed the head of the Lachish District and was also deputy commander of the Northern District.

MDA crew tackles weighty problem in Haifa

By DAVID RUDGE

Medical expertise is sometimes insufficient to cope with the demands of the job, as a Magen David Adom crew discovered when faced with a weighty problem in Haifa yesterday.

The crew was called to treat and transport an elderly patient suffering from a heart ailment and thrombosis in his legs. The treatment proved straightforward, until it came to moving the patient from his third-floor apartment to the

waiting ambulance. The problem - the patient weighed over 250 kg - almost proved insurmountable.

"We tried to put him in a wheelchair prior to attempting to take him down the stairs, but the chair collapsed under the strain," paramedic Yoni Rauchberger said.

Rauchberger, assisted by the crew's doctor and the ambulance driver, called the fire brigade to send a crane to lower the patient to the ground and a second ambulance with another wheelchair.

"We had this problem a year ago

when we had to move a patient weighing over 300 kg, and the only way we managed it was with the help of the fire brigade and a crane," he said.

The narrowness of the street, in Haifa's Hadar district, however, thwarted the best efforts of the emergency crews, who in the end had to use their brains.

The second wheelchair from the additional ambulance was taken up to the apartment - and also buckled under the man's weight. Nevertheless, the MDA crews

from the two ambulances, aided by firemen, eventually were able to carry the crumpled wheelchair and patient to the ambulance.

That should have been the end of the matter, except for one last difficulty. The collapsible stretcher in the ambulance did not prove up to the task - and also collapsed under the strain. Despite the problems, the patient was eventually conveyed to the city's Rambam Hospital, where a suitable reinforced stretcher was awaiting his arrival.

NEWS

in brief

New taxi licensing procedure starts Thursday

Beginning on January 1 anyone who can afford a NIS 205 license fee and whose driver's license meets Transport Ministry criteria, can obtain a "green number" and become a taxi driver. The decision was made yesterday at a meeting between Nahum Langenthal, the ministry's director-general, and Avraham Fried, chairman of the Taxi Owners' Association. The license fee will be reduced by 5 percent annually starting in 1999. Salaried drivers with at least six years experience driving a cab will receive a discount and be charged NIS 110 for a "green number." *Itim*

SPNI agreement falls apart

An agreement between the veteran members of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the breakaway Reconnaissance Groups led by lawyer Dror Hoter-Ishai broke down yesterday. The agreement would have given the renegade groups some representation on the executive board following the SPNI elections next month. The Reconnaissance Groups have been accused by SPNI veterans of trying to take over the original body in the elections.

The agreement reached over the weekend broke down yesterday because of the continued fears that Hoter-Ishai's branch is involved in large land deals and is trying to gain control of the SPNI to stifle opposition to development plans. Hoter-Ishai has accused the SPNI of neglecting educational work among youth in favor of demonstrations. MK Ophir Pines (Labor) yesterday asked Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz to immediately investigate the conflict. *Liav Collins*

Police ask for tougher hunting regulations

The police have asked the Nature Reserves Authority to toughen requirements for hunting licenses and to include mandatory safety training, after boar hunter Elias Abu Nu'ara, 32, of Reina, was accidentally shot to death by a fellow hunter on Friday.

Abu Nu'ara's five hunting companions were remanded Friday for four days to allow police to complete their investigation. Polygraph examinations showed that each was telling the truth when they reported all had fired at the same time at the fleeing boar and did not know who had fired the shot that killed Abu Nu'ara. *Itim*

NRA finds 2 smuggled NIS 50,000 parrots

International cooperation resulted in two rare smuggled parrots, worth NIS 50,000 each, being found on Kibbutz Beit Zera. The birds were found by Nature Reserves Authority wardens acting on information received by Interpol that the parrots had been smuggled in from South America. The NRA has recently increased its international cooperation to fight the trade in endangered species. Intelligence gathered in Israel led the wardens to the kibbutz petting zoo. The parrots were confiscated and a police complaint filed against the smugglers and buyers. *Liav Collins*

Immigration up more than 20 percent

The Absorption Ministry announced over the weekend that immigration was up more than 20 percent in the last six months of 1997, compared to the first six months of the year, with the majority of newcomers arriving from Ukraine and Ethiopia. Some 36,000 immigrants arrived, compared to 29,000 during the first six months. The total number for the year is expected to be 65,000, rather than the 60,000 originally anticipated. An Absorption Ministry spokesman said as a result the ministry would press for additional funding at the Knesset budget discussions. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Conference on adult Jewish education opens

Jewish educators from around the world were given a chance to exchange ideas when the First World Conference on Jewish Adult Education began yesterday at Kibbutz Ma'aleh Hahamisha, near Jerusalem. The four-day conference, sponsored by the Jewish Agency's Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education, aims to meet the growing demand for Jewish adult education. Topics include religious and Zionist education, Hebrew language studies, parenthood, Jewish community and Diaspora studies, curriculum development, new methodologies, and ways to evaluate programs. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

This is Your Week

For the Lotto

Draw tomorrow

Mifal Hapayis

Draw No. 52/97

100

5

(NIS MILLION)

In bid to uproot 'bird flu'

Hong Kong to kill, burn all territory's chickens

By JONATHAN SHARP

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong will kill and burn all chickens in the territory in a bid to rid itself of the "bird flu" that has killed four people and aroused fears worldwide of an epidemic, the government said yesterday.

The radical step, in which up to 1.5 million chickens from about 1,000 markets and 160 farms in Hong Kong will go up in smoke starting today, follows a ban on imports from mainland China and intensive probes into the mysterious killer disease.

As an additional measure, Director of Health Margaret Chan told a news conference that all poultry in retail markets, including geese and ducks kept near chickens, would be destroyed.

Officials said about 1,000 personnel would be involved in the mass slaughter.

As well as the four deaths, 12 people have been confirmed as being infected with the H5N1 virus, which normally affects only birds. A further nine people are suspected of suffering from it, according to the latest figures.

"From tomorrow morning, we will start destroying all the chickens in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories," Secretary for Economic Services Stephen Ip

said yesterday at the news conference.

He said the government was not concerned about the cost of the operation, and cared only about the public's health. Compensation would be paid to the thousands of people employed in the poultry business.

Earlier yesterday the government announced that a chicken farm and a wholesale market had been found to be infected and had been closed.

Scuffles broke out between chicken-sellers and reporters, who are criticized by the poultry trade for exaggerating the bird flu problem and ruining business.

Seeking to calm public fears, K.K. Liu of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department told the news conference that Chinese authorities would ensure that chickens for sale in Hong Kong did not carry the flu virus.

But the ban on Chinese imports would remain until the clean-up operation in Hong Kong was completed and it was certain that Chinese chickens were not infected, Liu said.

"We will cooperate with each other. We will be responsible to do the cleaning-up in the markets, and they [China] will have new institutions for testing."

Uncertainty remains over how humans are infected by the bird flu

virus. Health officials have played down concerns that the disease is transmitted through the atmosphere, such as by coughing and sneezing, which could cause a rapid spread of the disease.

A Hong Kong flu in 1968 killed some 46,500 people worldwide.

One of the mysteries surrounding the ailment is that no poultry workers, who would seem to be at high risk of catching such a disease, have been infected.

Heightened precautions have been ordered in Hong Kong's hospitals, with staff ordered to wear masks when in close contact with flu patients.

A team from the Geneva-based World Health Organization is to visit southern China soon to investigate the avian virus.

Director of Health Chan stressed that the cluster of bird flu was no indication of an epidemic and, according to the WHO, there was no need for travel restrictions in Hong Kong or elsewhere in the world.

The mass slaughter could be a boon for exporters of frozen food to this territory, where chicken is a basic part of the diet of the 6.5 million people.

Asked at the news conference what Hong Kong people would eat, one official encouraged people to buy frozen chickens from the US or Australia.



A press photographer, wearing masks to prevent inhaling possibly infested air, takes pictures at a Hong Kong wholesale poultry market yesterday. The market was declared an infected zone after four people died from chicken flu disease in Hong Kong.

New murders threaten North Ireland talks

Suspected Protestant gunmen kill former Republican prisoner in reprisal shooting

By MARTIN COWLEY

BELFAST (Reuters) — Northern Ireland's fragile peace process was plunged into crisis yesterday after suspected Protestant extremists killed a former Republican prisoner in a reprisal shooting at a Roman Catholic-owned hotel.

The attack, hours after Irish republican prisoners shot dead pro-British Protestant militia chief Billy Wright inside the province's top security jail on Saturday, and seriously wounded two other men and a 14-year-old boy.

Security sources said the murder of Seamus Dillon outside the Glengannon Hotel in the town of Dungannon was a reprisal for the killing of Wright.

Dillon, 45, was released in

1994 after serving a jail sentence for a 1980 murder linked to Northern Ireland's political and religious conflict.

US President Bill Clinton urged calm and condemned the killing of Wright, who was one of Northern Ireland's most notorious "Loyalist" guerrillas.

"This killing, coming during the Christmas season, makes no sense at a time when the people of Northern Ireland have real reasons for rejoicing at the prospects for peace and security in the coming year," White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said in Washington.

Wright's death was followed by disturbances in his home town of Portadown.

In Dungannon, local people said a gunman opened fire from a car which drew up outside the

hotel where several hundred people were attending a disco. The victims included hotel doormen, they said.

Martin Carolan, 14, was being treated for chest and arm injuries. Christopher Cummings, 42 suffered chest injuries and Joseph Herron, 47, was hit in the arm.

Wright, leader of the outlawed Loyalist Volunteer Force, was shot by members of the Irish National Liberation Army, a Catholic group fiercely opposed to British rule, inside the Maze Prison. The jail near Belfast holds around 700 extremists from both sides in Northern Ireland's long-running sectarian conflict.

Wright, known as "King Rat," was being escorted to a visiting area when he was shot by INLA prisoners who had clambered onto the jail roof with smuggled guns.

His death cast fresh doubts over the province's sluggish peace process. British and Irish

political leaders, condemning the killing as an attempt to destroy hopes for peace, appealed for calm.

But the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a group led by Wright after he was expelled from the Ulster Volunteer Force, issued a statement threatening revenge.

"The LVF will widen its theater of operations in the coming weeks and months," an anonymous spokesman said in a statement telephoned to a Belfast newsroom before the hotel shooting.

The Irish Republican Army, which has a power base in Catholic strongholds, and the UVF and most other Protestant guerrillas groups are operating truces that allowed full-scale peace talks to start last September.

The dissident INLA and the LVF, which believes the talks will lead to Northern Ireland being absorbed into an all-Ireland state, oppose the peace

process and, though relatively small in size, have opposed the current cease-fire called by the IRA and by Protestant guerrillas.

The LVF has been blamed for killing at least two Catholics in the recent past, and for a bomb found in Dundalk in the Irish republic last May.

Ken Maginnis, the Protestant member of parliament for Dungannon in Northern Ireland's rural heartland, condemned the hotel attack and called for the resignation of Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam.

"Not only should the secretary of state resign, but I believe the civil servant who is the director of security and the head of the [Northern Ireland] Prison Service should also resign," he said on GMTV television.

Mowlam rejected Protestant calls for her to resign.

"I would say to everybody to show calm and common sense," she told reporters.

In first foreign tour Khatami arrives in Turkmenistan

By GARETH JONES

ASHGABAT (Reuters) — Iran's Mohammed Khatami, on his first overseas trip since becoming president last summer, arrived in Turkmenistan yesterday for a landmark visit that could help reshape the balance of power in central Asia.

Khatami, a moderate cleric, held talks with Turkmenistan's strongman ruler Saparmurat Niyazov. No details of the talks were immediately available.

The two leaders will attend the opening today of the first pipeline to pump natural gas to Iran from the former Soviet republic. Iran is not alone in wanting to forge closer ties with Turkmenistan, an impoverished but energy-rich desert state of just four million people.

Earlier yesterday energy ministers of Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan gave the go-ahead to

oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell to draw up plans for a \$1.6 billion natural gas pipeline across their territory. The ministers signed a letter authorizing the feasibility study at a ceremony in Ashgabat attended by Niyazov and visiting Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

The proposed 1,500-km-long pipeline would carry up to 30 billion cubic meters of Turkmen natural gas annually via Iran to Turkey, whose energy requirements are expanding rapidly.

The diplomatic flurry underscores Niyazov's efforts to reduce Turkmenistan's dependence on Russia, which has monopolized his country's gas export routes. Turkmenistan is emerging as a key link in the economic and political contest between Russia, the US and others for influence in the Caspian Sea region, with its prized reserves of oil and gas.

Moi still the man to beat as Kenyans go to polls today

By NICHOLAS KOTCH

NAIROBI (Reuters) — Kenya's septuagenarian president, Daniel arap Moi, wound up his reelection campaign yesterday exuding confidence he will lead the troubled country into the 21st century.

Despite a prolonged and at times violent effort to unseat one of Africa's last "Big Men" in today's polls, 73-year-old Moi was still favorite to extend his 19 years in power for another five.

"It will be a miracle if he emerges as other than a minority leader in a country where many of the nine million voters are driven by tribal loyalty and where anger over corruption and crumbling

public services is intense.

Kenya has no history of accurate opinion polls. But the most plausible gives Moi about 40 percent, twice more than his closest challenger, former vice-president Mwai Kibaki.

Whoever is declared the winner inherits an economy thrown off course by years of political infighting, bad management and a level of official graft which even Moi agrees is unacceptable.

"We can't have another five years of this... of all that confrontation," lamented Micah Chesherem, Keoya's respected Central Bank governor.

"We have not shot ourselves in the foot but almost in the heart."

he said in a pre-election interview.

If Moi is elected to a fifth and final term, he knows the existing factions in his Keoya African National Union (KANU) could take their fight to succeed him into the open.

"I think it will be a furious struggle for the succession. And it will not be over in six months," a senior Western diplomat in Nairobi predicted.

Under Kenya's constitution, the presidency has far greater powers than parliament. But if KANU fails to win a majority in the new 222-seat National Assembly, as some pundits predict, the opposition will have leverage over the incumbent at State House.

Moi is probably more concerned about the risk of a run-off than about defeat today. If no candidate wins at least 25% in at least five of Kenya's eight provinces on the first ballot, the top two will go head-to-head within 21 days.

The outcome of such an unprecedented contest is anybody's guess, explaining why Moi's energies and KANU's war chest have concentrated on marginal areas where he is most vulnerable.

The opposition has already cried foul, saying years of diversion of state resources to the KANU cause and a daily diet of Moi propaganda in state media will prevent a fair poll.

They also attacked Moi's promotion this month of Zacharia Chesoni from chairman of the Electoral Commission to chief justice.

Chesoni is perceived as a Moi loyalist and in his new job will swear in the next president and rule on any challenges about the fairness of the elections.

The defeatist mood in the opposition camp, and the call for a boycott by veteran dissenter Kenneth Matiba, could lead to a low

turnout, to the advantage of Moi and his party.

In 1992, in Kenya's first real multi-party elections since independence from Britain in 1963, the turnout was 67%.

This was impressive by any standards and certainly by those in Africa since the end of the Cold War a decade ago heralded a rush of multi-party polls.

The opposition claims millions of Kenyans were disenfranchised this time by unfair voter registration. But the Electoral Commission figures show about 70% of the potential electorate, in a Third World country of 28 million people where many are illiterate and half live below the poverty line, can cast their votes at 12,754 polling stations.

With 28,000 independent Kenyan poll observers on duty today and a counting process that looks fine in theory, new Electoral Commission chairman Samuel Kivuiti says there is no danger of crude rigging in the final lap.

Yet the campaign has seen many cases of vote-buying and defections by candidates whose motives appeared pecuniary.

More than one opposition parliamentary candidate claims to have been abducted and intimidated by KANU sympathizers. One says she was personally telephoned by Moi during her overnight detention in a police station and encouraged to withdraw.

The three main independent monitoring groups said that violence and vote-buying could impact the quality of the process.

Despite several deaths, most in southwest Kisumu, campaign violence has been insignificant compared with 1992.

One reason may be the package of reforms agreed in the run-up to the polls between KANU and some opposition leaders.

Hardliners wanting a boycott rejected the reforms as cosmetic but for the first time they ensured that opposition parties were able to campaign freely most of the time without fear of attack by riot police.

"The (reform) freeing political assembly was an enormous breakthrough," one diplomat commented.

The Ministry of Finance
THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL
REGISTRY OF HOTELS, GUEST HOUSES AND HOSTELS FOR HOSTING PARTICIPANTS IN TRAINING COURSES

The Civil Service Commission, the Training Services Department and the Accountant General wish to update their registry of data on hotels, guest houses and hostels (hereinafter: suppliers) for hosting participants in training courses organized by government bodies (Government Ministries and subsidiary units).

Only suppliers listed in the registry will be able to host training activities carried out by Government Ministries and subsidiary units.

Any supplier able to offer the services detailed in the request forms can be included in the list of suppliers. A supplier appearing in the registry will be obliged to provide the services detailed in accordance with the price-list submitted by him and to abide by the conditions detailed in the specification.

Suppliers wishing to be included in the list should address a request for documents and application forms, to: Training Services Department, Civil Service Commission, Prime Minister's Office, Floor 6, Room 711, Hakiriya, Jerusalem. (Telephone 02-670-5220).

Applications in duplicate must be submitted in a closed envelope marked **Hotel Registry**.

Proposals must be placed in the tenders box at the above address, not later than **12 noon on Thursday, January 15, 1998**.

The Tenders Committee is not obliged to accept the lowest or any of the bids submitted.

BEZEQ The Israel Telecommunication Corp. Ltd.

Invites bids for the supply of the goods detailed below:
Tender No. 09/98/084/0

Unit for Access for Frame Relay-Frad Services - Long Term Agreement
(Possibility of Additional Purchase of Up to 200%)

The following are the general conditions for participation in the tender:

- 1- Preconditions:
 - (a) To meet all legal requirements in respect of keeping accounts, authorized dealer, registration, licenses and standards.
 - (b) To guarantee to abide by the proposal, as detailed in the tender documents.

The documents are in Hebrew.
- 2- The tender documents can be obtained from the Purchasing Unit of the Tenders and Orders Department in room 608 at 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem on Mondays to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, telephone 02-539-5614/5.

*The documents will be supplied on presentation of a receipt for the deposit of NIS 1000, as follows:
Participants in Israel will place the deposit in Bezeq's account number 5-311757 at the Postal Bank.

Overseas participants will make the deposit to credit Bezeq's account number 12-901-97633/64 in the main Jerusalem branch of Bank Leumi.

Deposits will not be returned.

Receipt and supplier's details, including registered trader's number, can be faxed to 972-2-5378113. Transmission of fax can be confirmed by telephoning 972-2-5385614/615-972.
- 3- Bids should be placed in the tenders box on 15 Rehov Hazvi, Jerusalem not later than 6 p.m. on February 10, 1998.
- 4- Bezeq does not undertake to accept the lowest bid or any, or to place the entire order with one bidder.
- 5- Bids submitted by fax or cable will not be accepted.

RABBI
Continued from Page 1

This included not being allowed to sleep, being tied up for many hours, and having a bag kept over his head.

"He told me he collapsed a few times, and a doctor was brought in to check him," Wurzbarger said, "but from the moment they realized that they would not break him they stopped all the physical pressure."

Wurzbarger quoted Eskin as saying he believes he might have been entrapped by the General Security Service, because "in the last year, many people came to him and gave him ideas, and in this case he did what he always does: he sent away the guy, Yair Hershik, saying he has his own ideas, he doesn't need anyone else's. This is his story, and beginning now he will tell it to the GSS."

Wurzbarger said he will ask the Jerusalem District Court today to release Eskin, as he is prepared to cooperate with the probe now that he has been allowed to see a lawyer. Eskin and Haim Pakovitch were held since December 21 without being allowed to see a lawyer.

Wurzbarger said Pakovitch is still barred from seeing a lawyer until Wednesday.

Meanwhile, outgoing police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and former GSS deputy chief MK

Gideon Ezra appealed to rabbis and right-wing politicians to restrain Jewish extremists and condemn the alleged plot. Hefetz told a Jerusalem assembly gathered for the handing over of his office to his successor, Yehuda Wilk, that hundreds of other Jewish extremists are prepared to break the law to halt the peace process.

"I think the ultra right-wing is aware now of the dangers contained in some of these extremist elements and that they have to assist the security forces," Ezra said. "All the rabbis and all the people associated with the extreme right-wing should denounce this alleged plot by Eskin and his associates."

He said that "if anyone has reason to believe that somebody intends to commit a serious act, they should inform the authorities straight away and stop whatever is planned before it happens."

Eskin's wife, Esther, said police and the GSS were harassing her husband because of his political views.

Margot Dudkevitch adds: Palestinian Authority Minister of Religious Affairs Sheikh Hassan Tahboub warned yesterday that if any attacks are carried out by right-wing extremists at al-Aksa Mosque, the Moslem world would not remain silent.

Haim Shapiro contributed to this report.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC
TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase by international tender:
TENDER No. 2754
SUBJECT: Sale of used and unused SF-6 insulated switchgears for system voltage up to 24 KV.

The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. is interested in selling the following excess equipment:
130 units of SF-6 insulated switchgears for system voltage up to 24 KV (some with and some without remote control).

Price proposals must be accompanied by a cashier check, made out to the order of the IEC, in an amount equal to ten (10%) percent of the total bid proposal (exclusive of VAT).

Bidders may arrange inspection of the equipment (located in IEC's stores in Ashdod), by contacting Mr. B. Baruch at Tel. 03-565-4679/985. Fax: 03-365-4644.

Last date for submission of bids: February 15, 1998 at 11 a.m.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the ground floor of the Pal-Yam Building, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, by the last date for submitting bids.

Note: Bids should not be submitted to the Tel Aviv offices. Any bids submitted to Tel Aviv will not be considered.

The tender documents and additional information may be obtained at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, 3rd floor, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, after applying in writing and calling 04-883-7455 for an appointment, or at the Sales Department, 80 Flehoy Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdar Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-565-4678, 03-565-4641.

No undertaking is given to accept the highest or any bid.

Handwritten text in Hebrew: *התאחדות המעבידים*

End of the 'show about nothing'

By JOHN CARMODY

NBC, America's high-flying television network, put on a brave smile Friday, thanking the cast of its smash comedy *Seinfeld* for a "magnificent ride" over the past "incredible time years" while acknowledging that the series will end after this season.

One measure of the impact on NBC: Word of the show's end led the news on Friday morning's *Today Show*, another of the network's jewels. On ABC's *World News Tonight*, anchor Forrest Sawyer announced, "Thursday night will never be the same again." Consistently the highest-rated comedy on television, and the most expensive sitcom ever produced, *Seinfeld* has been the heart of NBC's popular and profitable Thursday night lineup.

A quirky ensemble program set on New York's Upper West Side, *Seinfeld* follows the lives of four self-involved and slightly daft friends: Jerry, a stand-up comic who bounces from one beautiful, but somehow flawed, girlfriend to the next; his neighbor Kramer, an eccentric schemer perpetually on the make; George, a pal from childhood—bald, chubby, constantly botching chances for success; and Elaine, a former girlfriend who becomes one of the neurotic, unsatisfied and hilarious guys.

Dubbed a "show about nothing," as time wore on, it became a show about the mundane things that actually occupy the lives of Americans: food, sex, fads, aging parents, stupid bosses, phony friendships and the occasional death. Much of the humor derived from intricately crafted coincidences that sent the characters stumbling across one another's paths.

Much like *Saturday Night Live* or *I Love Lucy* in their heydays, *Seinfeld* contributed phrases and characters—"yada, yada, yada" and the Soup Nazi, for instance—to the popular vernacular.

The star and co-creator, Jerry Seinfeld, earns at least \$1 million per episode—a season is 22 episodes at 22 minutes each—and far more from the syndication of *Seinfeld* reruns. Last year co-stars Jason Alexander (George Costanza), Michael Richards (Cosmo Kramer) and Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Elaine Benes) demanded raises and settled for \$600,000 each per episode. The cost of producing the show rose to more than \$3 million per week, a record for a situation comedy.

But advertising time runs as high as \$1 million per minute, making *Seinfeld* the source of between 20 and 40 percent of NBC's annual profit.

Alexander, Richards and Louis-Dreyfus are likely to survive the death of the show. Each of the series co-stars can probably command a lead in a new comedy series. And if NBC can't find spots for them next season, rival networks are sure to bid for their services in hopes that some of the *Seinfeld* magic is transferable.

Seinfeld revealed his decision to end the show Thursday in an interview with the *New York Times*, but the news was not unexpected. He hinted several times in recent years that he wanted to leave while the series was still on top. He will,



'Seinfeld' characters Kramer, Jerry, George and Elaine decide to call it a day.

His comedy ranks only behind *ER* in the ratings (which measure the percentage of total TV sets in the US tuned to the program) and actually leads in weekly total viewers.

A favorite of the critics, *Seinfeld* has won 10 Emmys since becoming a regular in the NBC lineup during the

1991-92 season.

And just this week, for the second year in a row, *Seinfeld* was named the most popular national TV personality in an annual Harris Poll. He reportedly turned down \$5 million per show to keep the series going. (The Washington Post)

Something to sing about

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

For the past 10 years a miracle has been developing in Tel Aviv. With no subsidy to speak of, far from the eyes of the governmental sponsoring institutions, the choral singing tradition has been rejuvenated.

There was a time when Israel had many choirs to be proud of, particularly the Rinat and the Cameran. But both folded due to lack of funding and lack of recognition that the Ministry of Culture and Education, through its council for the arts, should sponsor choirs as it does orchestras around the country.

So when Michael Shani founded the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir, he did not really expect any subsidy. "After working with the Tel Aviv Philharmonic Choir for six years in the '80s, I realized that if I wanted to develop in my own way and fulfill my own dreams, I needed my own choir, a choir that would work professionally. I approached then-mayor Shlomo Lahat with the idea and he loved it and promised to help. But after half a year there was a huge cut-back in the municipality's arts subsidies, and naturally we were the first to be cut off." Since that was beginning, the choir has worked "for seven years without a budget and funding, and there were a lot of crises along the way. But the singers understood that we were trying to create something special."

The only help the choir did receive was from the Yad Labanim House in Tel Aviv. "They embraced us and gave us a home to work in; that was our basis." Today, 10 years later, Shani has 43 dedicated singers who rehearse twice a week and perform about 40 concerts a year—all without being paid. "I told the singers that they are coming here for something they believe in. It must be a commitment and not a leisure activity. The choir lists their lives; many cannot envision a schedule governs their daily life, which is why I tell them time and again that I don't want the choir to be their first priority. If it is third, it's good enough for me. I want them to come because they enjoy it, not because they have to."

Shani reminisces that "when the choir was inaugurated, the School for Choral Singing was founded as well by Avner Itai, Stanley Sperber and myself, and the two institutions developed almost hand in hand. I am proud that many of my singers graduated

from that school."

So how does the choir function financially? "Our earned income is derived from our concerts and from private companies that have discovered our work and were interested in sponsoring us. The first one was the Hashavshvet software company."

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir is presenting a concert on Saturday at Jaffa's Noga Theater, where it will share the stage with some of the musicians and musical bodies that shaped its way and worked closely with them, such as Shlomo Gronich, Ehud Manor, Gil Aldema, the New Israeli Opera Chorus and South American composer Ariel (Missa Criolla) Ramirez. "He first came to Israel in 1989 and we were asked to play with him and his ensemble. Since then, we have played with him and performed his music on numerous occasions."

There were other highlights over the past decade, such as a concert with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. "But the major impetus to our work in recent years has been the revived Abu Ghosh Festival." The choir has appeared in every festival since it was revived in 1992. "Many of our programs are created especially for Abu Ghosh."

Shani is very grateful to his singers and to the choir's devoted audience. "We have about 400 members on our mailing list and they come to the concerts. All our concerts have always been very full, and I'm not pampering the audience with light and overpopular music. Our repertoire ranges from Baroque to Penderecki and Stockhausen, including a lot of Israeli music, most of which is written especially for us. We present a lot of music which is new to the audience and they come, they like it, they trust us."

While Shani is still angry that the Council for the Arts basically ignores his choir, he says "there was a time when I accused everyone. Now I avoid doing this and I simply do things; this is the best way to move forward. In our anniversary, I see myself in a relatively minor role. The major players are the singers and the audience."

What would Shani like to do for the choir's 20th anniversary—in another decade? "What I really dream of is working with other local choirs and performing one of the major choral pieces of the repertoire. But who knows? Maybe it will happen even in less than 10 years."

Murder in the White House

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

Yet another thriller that directly involves the US president, the secret service and a complex cover-up, *Murder at 1600* is the liberal answer to *Absolute Power*. Clint Eastwood's conservative indictment of Washingtonian corruption. The films were shot and released in the States around the same time, so it's unlikely that the makers of *Murder* actually meant their movie to constitute a reply to Eastwood's full-frontal attack on the current American president. But comparison of the two pic-



Detective Harlan Regis (Wesley Snipes) looks for clues.

MURDER AT 1600

Directed by Dwight Little. Screenplay by Wayne Beach and David Hodgin. Hebrew title: *Retzah babayit halavan*. 106 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult. With Wesley Snipes, Diane Lane, Alan Alda, Daniel Benzali and Dennis Miller

tures seems inevitable, since they begin with the exact same lurid premise and develop quite differently from there.

In Eastwood's movie—which is both more artful in its construction and cruder in its political connotations—the solution to the mystery is revealed at the outset: we and the hero (a jewel thief played by the director) see the murder of a beautiful young woman take place in the opening scenes, right after she's engaged in a round of rough sexual play with the president himself. We know who is responsible. The

film unfurls as a slow but insidiously sure attack on the cowardice and hypocrisy Eastwood perceives in the actions of the chief executive whom his character dubs, in no uncertain terms, a "heartless whore."

In *Murder*, on the other hand, neither we, D.C. homicide detective Regis (Wesley Snipes) nor his sidekick, a renegade secret-service agent and former Olympic sharp-shooter, Nina Chance (Diane Lane), know anything for certain about the guilt or inno-

cence of the various players throughout most of the film. Like *Absolute Power*, the movie also opens with wild sex and the bloody slaying of a blonde, in the White House itself this time (and in the shadows, so we can't see the killer's face), though it then follows a more predictable mystery story outline, with suspects trotted out one by one in the course of the action, and the identity of the true criminal revealed only at the very end.

Murder is in many ways a more

stylistically conventional film than Eastwood's neo-Hitchcockian thriller. Director Dwight Little relies on obvious devices like ominous music, rain-drenched streets and occasionally gothic undertighting to provide the suspenseful atmosphere. But because of its refusal to leap to quick conclusions or score cheap political points, the picture is also a good deal more ambiguous—and therefore compelling—in its social implications.

Besides the sensational homicide, a political storm is brewing in North Korea, the president's approval ratings are dropping, and we see the tangled way that decisions get made in the face of all these problems. This Commander in Chief (played by Ronny Cox) has a good deal more than a single policy mess on his mind at all times. And the people around him—including his soft-spoken national security adviser played by Alan Alda and the ghoulish-looking White House security chief (the wonderful Daniel Benzali of *Murder One*—also have their own complicated agendas and reasons for possibly fudging the truth. To their credit, scriptwriters Wayne Beach and David Hodgin make it clear from the outset that the

duties of the office of president are too complex to capture completely in the plot of a pulp political thriller.

Meanwhile, Snipes and Lane, a black man and a woman, are underdogs of a different sort from Eastwood's mythically aloof character, and as this sympathetic odd couple battles the mysterious powers that be, a distinctly different feeling sweeps us than it does as we watch Eastwood go at his Clinton-bashing with a sneer. Regis and Chance take the steps they do in the name of justice: they can't stand to see an innocent man take the fall for the real bad guys, whoever they may be. While *Absolute Power* is paranoid about men in high places, *Murder* doesn't take anything for granted: its heroes are quietly suspicious of everyone, no matter their rank.

But Little handles all these big social matters lightly. And although the action takes a turn for the vaguely preposterous somewhere in the last act, the movie hums along for most of the duration with just enough style and wit to keep us engaged. This is not to be sure, a model of filmic sophistication, but it is entertaining and not (as Eastwood's film was) unduly mean.

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Rhythms of Spain

By HELEN KAYE

Spanish choreographer Joaquin Sabate is also a designer, arranger and a counterpoint. He'll be singing at the Suzanne Dellal Center on Thursday and Friday when the Batsheva Ensemble dances the world premiere of his newest work, *Tremolo, Tremolo!* which he created for the company.

Sabate's dance explores sound and movement in almost equal measure. He speaks of it as "equal lapping the unpredictable dance..." The dancers clap, click,

stamp, talk gibberish and sing as they dance with each other and a variety of props, including plungers and the flat Spanish paella pans. And indeed, the rhythms of Spain resonate in the eye and the ear throughout.

The other two dances in the evening are Linda Gaudreau's *100 Movements* which premiered last June, and the Israeli premiere of the duet *The Collapse of Theory* by French choreographer Frederic Lescur.

Gaudreau speaks of her work as architecture of the human body, and in this piece she goes beyond

to the soul because dancers don't only move, she says, they think and then the architecture becomes one of feeling.

Lescur's witty dance, on the other hand, seeks to explore the consequences for those "who think too much," showing up how little we really know and how interdependent we are.

The 14-member Ensemble is the junior company for Batsheva Dance and siphons off some of the company's NIS 9 million subsidy, despite BD's efforts to get the ensemble recognized as an entity in its own right.

SEE IT IN HEBREW- HEAR IT IN ENGLISH! MR. WOLF December 30, at 8.30 p.m. A Hillel Mittelpunkt Han Ronen Production. Based on *Vladimir* by Ben Johnson. Starring: Yossi Graber and Hani Baruch. Isaac Wolf, who made his millions from brothels in Germany, returns to Israel after many years, accompanied by his faithful assistant, Bazzi, to take his revenge on his three brothers for dispossessing him of his father's inheritance years ago. A hysterical comedy! BOX OFFICE: 03-524-3335 • FAX: 03-524-0172 SUBSCRIPTIONS: 03-524-521 The Cameri Theatre can now be found on the internet: <http://www.cameri.virtua.il> Located in the heart of Tel Aviv on Herzl Dizengoff Street, the Cameri is just a few minutes' walk from basement hotels. Easily accessible by bus or taxi. The Best of Israeli Theatre every Tuesday night with simultaneous translation into English

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Budget under siege

As the budget's fateful hour—midnight on December 31—approaches, the tinkle of Hanukkah gelt can be heard in the air. Unfortunately, that tinkle is the sound of each coalition party pocketing promises, a sound that is usually followed by the disconcerting feeling of each of our wallets growing lighter.

It will not be until after the budget is passed that we will know for sure what really was promised to whom, and how much it will cost us humble taxpayers. All we can do now is see who is smiling, like Shas leader Aryeh Deri, and whose threats are growing louder, like Geshar's David Levy.

Beyond all the brinkmanship, however, a few salient facts loom over the ongoing political drama. First, it is hard to believe that any of the coalition partners threatening to leave the government really plan on doing so over the budget.

Second, the government's budget, even if it passes completely unscathed, contains little by way of a real reordering of priorities. From the beginning, the 1998 budget has been a missed opportunity to take the first budget not inherited from the previous government and reshape it to reflect the new government's economic agenda.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu came into office promising a revolution that would double the economy's growth rate to that of the Asian tigers during their heyday. In practice, Netanyahu has not even reordered priorities as much as did Rabin and Peres, let alone Reagan and Thatcher.

As Deri—who is not known to be a disciple of free market economics, but is certainly an astute budget analyst—explained, Rabin and Shohat exercised moral and political considerations with which they gathered funds for a range of goals close to their hearts, from culture to the Arab sector.

Yet this government, noted Deri, while not exciting from the budget all the articles placed there by the Rabin-Meretz government, is still trying to support the issues close to its heart, i.e. settlements, the religious sector, development towns, and the like. "It doesn't go together," asserted Deri. "This government has to decide, one way or the other."

This view of economic reform means shifting the spoils of government from one pot to another. Netanyahu, and now Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, ostensibly believes in something much more revolutionary—the permanent shrinking of government and the lowering of the tax burden. Yet with billions of shekels in promises being

handed out left and right, it is hard to see how the government will emerge from this budget process without either its deficit target or its "no new taxes" pledge in shreds—or both.

Part of the reason the government finds itself in such a predicament is that it entered into a grueling budget battle in a highly weakened state.

The anti-Oslo right wing within the coalition is beginning to believe that it has little to lose by bringing down the government. After all, Netanyahu seems to be guaranteeing a parliamentary majority for continued implementation of Oslo that a Labor government might not be able to deliver. And Netanyahu's almost systematic generation of waves of distrust and resentment within his own coalition has left fear, rather than loyalty, as his only ally.

The other problem is that Netanyahu has followed the model of all previous Israeli governments and has tried to pass its reforms from the top down, without any real attempt to build public support for a comprehensive economic plan.

Disembodied proposals—good, bad, or indifferent—appear from the bowels of the Finance Ministry and are either backed or abandoned by Netanyahu. But how can they gain any public support when the government never stoops to explaining its grand plan to the public in a coherent way?

The window of opportunity for the promised economic revolution may already have closed, given that the government, far from its honeymoon phase, seems to be in a prolonged state of siege.

If there is any hope for such a revolution, it cannot be sold piecemeal, as each lonely proposal will be easily picked off by powerful vested interests.

For now, the government should cut its losses by pushing through an across-the-board budget cut to pay for all its recent promises without raising taxes.

For the future, Netanyahu and his economic ministers should launch a public campaign to fight unemployment and stagnation with reforms designed to unleash economic growth.

The political battle is at heart a moral question: What is better for the weakest sectors of society, limited government and high growth, or suffocating paternalism and low growth?

As long as the moral high ground remains the unchallenged property of the advocates of big government, hope for an Israeli economic revolution will remain nil.

Play it straight

YOSEF GOELL

The chaotic brouhaha over the state budget is typical of the messy way the Israeli political system has always dealt with this central aspect of democratic government; perhaps the closest equivalent we have to what is called in the U.S. "pork-barrel politics."

And yet, it would seem that this year's last minute goings on in the Knesset plenum and the Finance Committee have been more chaotic than ever before. Part of the explanation for the intensification of this chaos lies in the unveiled resentment, if not outright animosity, to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, on the part of many MKs from his own Likud faction as well as ones from other coalition partners.

the relations between our extreme Right and Left.

I believe, however, that the major explanation lies in a long overdue backlash against the reprehensible habit of government by subterfuge. Netanyahu did not invent that political stink; he simply "perfected" it to the point that it's blatant visibility could not but invite such a backlash.

Take the debate over the health services budget as an example. The National Health Law with its commitment to the public for the continuation and improvement of the quality and coverage of public health services was adopted by an impressive consensual majority in the Knesset only a few years ago. That came after years of public debate which culminated in the

The Neeman-Netanyahu budget boils down to a cowardly exercise in politics by subterfuge

That resentment and the determination to flout his leadership on the budget stems from Netanyahu's all too obvious disdain for his party and coalition colleagues in the Knesset, and even in the cabinet. The straw that apparently broke the back of many Likud and other coalition MKs was the deal Netanyahu and Minister of Finance Yaakov Neeman worked out behind their backs with Shas' Aryeh Deri for the inclusion of Shas in a ministerial committee that would override Likud Health Minister Yehoshua Mazza in updating the health services basket.

A second explanation lies in the unprecedented disparity between coalition parties over a number of cardinal issues ranging from policy towards the continuation of the peace process, through economic and religious issues. The emotions underlying the competition between Shas and David Levy's Geshar for the disadvantaged Sephardi vote, and between Shas and the National Religious Party for control of the religious section of the pork barrel are as virulent as those that inform

establishment of a prestigious public commission to recommend the changes which became the basis of the subsequent legislation.

It was no secret, then, that public health would cost money; lots of money. Thus, the financial burden of that commitment should not have come as a surprise. The law is far from perfect and is not sacrosanct. But the issue in contention is not mere money, not even when it is over a billion shekels.

The issue is over a fat-cat lawyer, who was made minister of finance by the prime minister largely because of the personal services he provided to save the Prime Minister's marriage and image, after the latter publicly confessed to an adulterous affair, teaming up with Thatcherite Treasury professionals for the purpose of gutting the entire public health service by subterfuge.

Subterfuge means trying to sneak such a major reactionary revolution through the Knesset Finance Committee in the guise of a chapter in the economic arrangements bill. If Netanyahu and Neeman

Dry Bones



believe that the country cannot afford the National Health Law let them say so openly and initiate a public debate to have it changed. Netanyahu knows, all too well, however, that any such attempt would bring him and his government down. Thus the resort to the subterfuge of the Arrangements bill.

The underhanded nature of that attempt fully justifies extreme retaliatory measures such as breaking coalition discipline in the Knesset and declaring a general strike of the health services. This penchant for governing by subterfuge has not been limited to the health services.

The fact that the level of religious service budgets has been sanctified as a holy cow which is above political debate is another such example.

If Neeman is looking for a source of money for the health and social services that he is determined to undermine he could easily find it in the preposterously inflated budget of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

This has grown by 17 percent in the present budget, compared to the cuts to which nearly all other services and ministries have been subjected. Over NIS 800 million of that superfluous ministry's budget of NIS 1.5 billion, go to support a fast growing army of parasitic yeshiva students.

Other examples of politics by subterfuge, which are basically an expression of a cowardly refusal to deal with difficult and divisive issues honestly, can be seen in the manner in which the settlements are being financed and in Netanyahu's lying out of all sides of his mouth to all his ministers on the forthcoming redeployment in the territories.

Old Abe Lincoln was only part right. You can lie to all of the people for quite some time. But when you're finally caught doing it, there is a high price to pay.

The writer comments on public affairs

The Jewish-unity charade

BERNARD WASSERSTEIN

Jewish unity: what a glorious oxymoron! We Jews are the most variegated nation on earth. Have we not always been a people of renegades, heretics, iconoclasts? The tradition flows from the Hebrew prophets through the ages to the spiritual rebels of Hassidism, the Enlightenment, Reform Judaism, and the cultural and political revolutionaries of the past century.

That reverberative word "orthodoxy"—and the even more repellent reality—are modern artifacts quite at variance with our national tradition. We should resist orthodoxy's spurious claims to some sort of special historical authenticity and take pride in our diversity.

Yet now, we are told, a *coramillee* under Minister Neeman is earnestly trying to find some formula to preserve the fictitious unity of the Jewish people.

Why bother? Jewish unity is a slogan not a reality. In Israel it has become something of a shibboleth, reflecting the aspiration of the Zionist movement, since its inception, to draw together all Jews in a single political unit. But the truth is that the Jews are less united today than they have ever been.

They are certainly not a political unity: Israel itself is split as never in its history; and while most Jews in the Diaspora feel a general sympathy with the Jewish state, there is widespread distress at its pitifully inept leadership. Nor are Jews reli-

giously united: the orthodox are a tiny minority—at most ten percent of Diaspora Jewry; in America they are outnumbered several times over by Reform and Conservative Jews; and growing numbers everywhere are minimally practicing or find no time at all for institutionalized religion.

Insofar as Jews are united at all, they cohere more and more around symbols, values and goals that are universal, not particularist. A century ago, most Jews spoke Jewish languages, all of them written in the Hebrew script: Yiddish, Ladino, Judeo-Arabic. Today, nearly all Jews outside Israel speak at home the tongue of their surrounding culture. The lingua franca of Jews today is not Hebrew but English—as any observer at an international Jewish gathering will immediately notice. Pathetically, even a conference on the hundredth anniversary of the Bund, the socialist-autonomist Jewish party of pre-war eastern Europe, held this month in Warsaw, was conducted not in Yiddish but in English.

A century ago most Jews lived in relatively self-contained Jewish cultural milieus; today the great majority have been sucked into the cultural maw of North Atlantic civilization: MTV, teletubbies, Versace, the World-Wide Web—these, rather than any fading remnants of Jewish tradition, are the unifying cultural

icons of the affluent Jewish suburbs of London, Los Angeles, Johannesburg—and of Tel Aviv.

Proponents of Jewish unity are generally people who are trying to corral other Jews into a repressive social order of one sort or another.

Sometimes they are Zionist propagandists trying to persuade donkey-like Diaspora Jews to fall into line behind the Israeli government's latest absurdity or obscenity.

Sometimes they are orthodox militants trying to compensate for their numerical and intellectual weaknesses by pretending that they care for the Jewish people as a whole—whereas the truth is that organized orthodoxy, in the Diaspora as much as in Israel, is almost exclusively concerned with the interests of Orthodox Jews themselves, to the extent, frequently, of not even counting other Jews as part of the Jewish people—as if the Orthodox were the sole authorized gatekeepers and ticket-distributors to Jewishness. The sad truth is that that is precisely their function in Israel today.

The Conservative and Reform Jews have made a great mistake recently by playing into the hands of the Orthodox-nationalist coalition in Israel.

Instead of meekly echoing the pious calls for Jewish unity, they should insist on the glory of plural-

ism and should celebrate variety.

Astonishingly, even much of the "left" in Israel seems frightened to insist on the elementary right of the individual to think, eat, worship, and love in freedom rather than according to the dictates of a primitive authoritarian code. In the vain pursuit of votes Labor Party leaders pay homage and make obeisance to dark-spectacled miracle-men and tarbened wizards.

Yes, collectivities too have rights; but these do not take precedence over the right of the individual human spirit to carve his or her own fate. The alternative is a despotism of conventional thought—of which we have seen, and can still see, so many barbaric examples in our century.

If, over the ages, we had accepted the demands of the self-appointed unifiers, what would have become of the Jews? Maimonides, Spinoza, the Baal Shem Tov would all have been consigned to scholarly footnotes rather than enlarging the spiritual lives of millions. Could any of the great liberating movements in Jewish life have survived?

It is high time that, as a people, we abandoned the larger mentality in which so many Jews still instinctively take refuge. Down with Jewish unity! Long live Jewish pluralism!

The writer is president of the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROSENBLUM ALIENATES

Sir, - If only Jonathan Rosenblum could cease proselytizing, criticizing and metamorphosing his opinions into facts, perhaps his commitment to Jewish religious observance would be more palatable and persuasive to those outside the haredi/ultra-Orthodox circle. His articles invariably contain (sometimes ludicrous) "examples" and accusations causing further alienation and disdain from the majority of the population. Is that your goal, Mr. Rosenblum, to provoke even more dissension than what already exists?

ELAINE KALLET

Jerusalem.

CANCEL THE JUBILEE

Sir, - I totally agree with Paul Kohn in his letter of December 17 that the Jubilee festivities should be cancelled. They are superfluous and a waste of money. Israel's calendar is already overloaded with religious and national holidays, and it will not raise our low spirits even a little bit to have any more contrived "Jubilee celebrations."

BARUCH GREENBERG

Tel Aviv.

MAPPING THE PROBLEM

Sir, - With reference to Messrs Dan and Eisenberg's above-titled article in *The Jerusalem Post* of December 18, I think it should be made clear that the Germans never broke through the Maginot line in WWII because "French Generals were (not) professionally adapt and (not) motivated by patriotic pride."

Actually they went round the line which may well have stood up to an attack, and which did not extend to the sea, but chose to go through weakly defended, neutral Holland and Belgium, as they had done in WWI.

ALFRED MARKUS

Tel Aviv.

POOR DRIVING

Sir, - "They myth of the poor Israeli driver" (Friday, December 19) is unfortunately not a myth but a dangerous reality. I do not know where the experts got their data from. I have yet to take a 10-minute trip without noticing at least a few right turns without a signal and a left turn as well.

A significant portion of Israeli drivers consider signaling to be used only as the last resort. To stop for a pedestrian? This is

dangerous too. I nearly caused an accident a month ago when a pedestrian for whom I had stopped at the crossing was narrowly missed by a car coming from the opposite direction. Ten years of driving in Manhattan is insufficient experience for the hazards of driving in Beersheba.

MLADEN ANDRIJASEVIC

Beersheba.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 29, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Egyptian Ministry of Communications was planning the construction of a railway from Port Fuad which faces Port Said on the Suez Canal to link with Palestine Railways in order to facilitate trade between the two countries. During November 1932, 1,192 Jews entered Palestine.

50 years ago: On December 29, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that an "illegal" immigrant ship, named *November 29* in honor of the date of the UN decision on the establishment of a Jewish State, was boarded by the Royal Navy off the coast of Palestine. The vessel carried some 700 immigrants. Egypt allocated £2 million sterling for the purchase of surplus British Army equipment. One Arab was killed and seven Arabs and two Jews injured in Tel Aviv-Jaffa border skirmishes. In Ramat Gan, the Efal quarter came

under sporadic Arab sniping. Jerusalem suffered five Jews and five Arabs killed. A Government Medical Officer, Dr. Hugo Letrus, 43, was shot and killed while visiting the Contagious Diseases Hospital in Beit Safafa. Moshe Neumann, 25, was stabbed to death near the Damascus Gate on his way to attend a funeral on the Mount Of Olives.

There were more attacks on trains. Train guards were disarmed, their guns taken away while the wagons were emptied of their contents by well-organized gangs of robbers.

While the security situation was fast deteriorating the Jewish Agency asked in vain what activities would be undertaken by the government following its oft-repeated declarations that it would continue to be responsible for law and order. The Agency's spokesman added that the Arab policemen were constantly deserting with their arms. A sole British

police officer in the Netanya area had disarmed his Arab wards and armed them with sticks instead.

25 years ago: On December 29, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that after Israel kept vigil all night, four Arab terrorists freed six Israeli hostages at Bangkok airport. The terrorists handed over their weapons to a Thai officer and were allowed to board a special Thai flight for Cairo.

The drama began when the four terrorists armed with sub-machineguns stormed into the embassy, and after seizing their hostages sent out demands to free 36 terrorists being held in Israel. They also asked for the bodies of two terrorists killed in the Sabena hijack attempt at Lod Airport in May.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said that he did not believe that the current tension along Syrian border would escalate into war.

Alexander Zviell



Easy Money



Photo illustration by Darryl Palumbo/The New York Times from photograph by Myron J. Dorf/The Stock Market

Borrowing Asia's Troubles

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

WANT to make some easy money? No problem. Drop in at Chase Manhattan Bank and ask to borrow some yen. Chase and other big banks will happily lend yen at an interest rate that can't be beat: 2.75 percent, all charges included. Even a desperate used car salesman won't lend money that cheap.

Now take those borrowed yen and convert them to dollars. With the dollars, buy a Government-guaranteed Treasury bond, yielding nearly 6 percent a year. Sit back

and enjoy the spread of three percentage points. If you borrow \$1 million, that's the easiest \$30,000 a year you'll ever see. Or better yet, put \$1 million in stock. The Dow Jones industrial average is up nearly 20 percent this year, and if 1998 is only half as good, that is still a \$72,000 return on \$1 million in borrowed yen.

The Asian tigers (remember them?) borrowed lots of yen to help finance their booms. Japan has kept interest rates absurdly low in hopes that Japanese would borrow and spend and lift their own economy out of its severe doldrums. The Japanese haven't borrowed, despite the lure. But everyone else has. Chase pays less than 1 percent for yen, which it re-lends at interest rates two or three times higher. Other banks and brokerage firms do the same.

Loans to Debts

Naturally, there's a catch. Asia's boom has famously collapsed, and those yen loans that looked like can't-miss free money are now huge unpaid debts. And it's worth noting that the borrowing of yen, which helped Asia boom and then collapse, is going on unabated in the United States, too. Bankers call it the "carry trade."

"It is a very dangerous game, this carry trade, a house of cards," said Stephen S. Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Company, a big Wall Street house that engages in the carry trade itself. "With Japan weak and Asia getting weaker by the minute, the players in this game find themselves turning to American Treasuries and stocks."

The risks should give pause. The biggest is that the Japanese yen will rise in value. A 4 percent rise in the \$1 million worth of yen borrowed by Chase's customer suddenly takes \$1,040,000 to repay, turning what seemed like an easy profit into a loss. That very fear, that the yen was about to rise in value, hit the securities market earlier this month for about two hours, and there was a rush to sell Treasury notes to cover outstanding loans. But the marketplace soon decided the yen would not appreciate, and trading subsided. The gamble sustaining the carry trade is that the yen will continue to lose value. Chase, of course, protects itself. Its borrower has to

Continued On Page 12



Women and children first: Titanic's lifeboats weren't filled to capacity.

Word for Word: The Titanic Disaster

THE Titanic steams onward in the popular imagination — most recently in a blockbuster film epic, but also in a Broadway musical, TV documentaries and books, some prompted by deep-sea explorations of the wreck in recent years. Despite all this, most of the essential story of the doomed ocean liner has long remained unchanged. The unheeded iceberg warnings, the underloading of scarce lifeboats, the failure of those in lifeboats to return to help those scream-

ing for help and dying from exposure at sea — these and other crucial details of the story all emerged in a highly publicized Senate investigation in the days immediately following the 1912 disaster. Though the Senate investigation took place before the dawn of mass electronic media, it rivals all others this century for drama. With an outraged public clamoring for answers, it opened the day after stunned survivors arrived in New York. The setting: the East Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, symbol of

the Gilded Age whose eod the Titanic disaster appeared to herald. The hearings then moved to Washington, where some witnesses testified in the oew caucus room of the Russell Senate Office Building, venue of major Senate investigations since. The inquiry ruffled relations with Britain (which soon launched its own) and pitted antitrust sentiment against the influence of J. P. Morgan, the American financier behind the Titanic's parent company. Excerpts are on Page 3.

Images

Microsoft, meet your PR man.
 By John Markoff

2

Scandal Quiz

First prize: an hour with a Senator. Second prize: two hours.

2

Turkey's New Friends
 Goodbye Europe.
 Scram, Mideast.

By Stephen Kinzer

4

Head Games

A Pill Threatens A Growth Industry

By JAMES BARRON

THE question is not whether Propecia, the pill for male pattern baldness that the Food and Drug Administration approved last week, will let the toupee-and-transplant crowd cast off their rugs and weaves once and for all. Or whether Propecia's supposed side effects, including a slight risk of impotence, will undermine the payoff its users undoubtedly hope will result from a renewal of their hirsuteness. No, the question is: will late-late night television ever be the same?

For years, advertisements for baldness treatments and hair replacements have provided a weird wee-hours nexus between hard-sell pitchmanship and something passing for science. It is a gray area that marketers exploited long after living-color television showed that hair weaves were available in colors not found in nature.

On camera, carefully coached promoters read the Teleprompter. But off camera, in a conversation the other day about whether

Propecia would stunt the growth of his business, one of the best-known of this breed had trouble with the words — saying "testosterone" when he meant the male hormone testosterone. Maybe these spinners of webs, some of whom consumer agencies have accused of telling bald-faced, well, exaggerations, have another word in mind: Testarossa, the \$200,000-plus Ferrari they no doubt see themselves driving. Unfortunately, Ferrari has discontinued the model.

It is no wonder purveyors of oils and ointments have beads for figures: Men spend \$1.2 billion a year on hair-loss treatments, according to the magazine Men's Health, an encyclopedia of hope and advice for those who would never grow old. Of the \$1.2 billion, a sizable chunk goes for over-the-counter, generally worthless products, from vitamin pills to special shampoos. "It's vanity," said Eleanor Durban, a lawyer for the Federal Trade Commission who successfully prosecuted one anti-baldness product. Ms. Durban said that Government-ag-

Continued On Page 10



The balder the head, it seems, the more it costs. The price for this delicate clipping: \$75.

The Nation



WHAT do you know and when did you know it? How can you ever keep it all straight? Is McCain-Feingold a Hollywood donor? Did Fra Filippo Lippi sing with the Lippo Group?

If you followed the story this year — or even if you didn't — you can test your skills here. There's no entry fee. There's not even a way to keep score. But you might win big. As Dick Morris said he was told by a grateful President Clinton, "Nothing's too much to pay for a miracle."

If you can't answer the questions, don't fret. You will doubtless get another chance. The exposition of the shameless intrigues will carry forward into the New Year. And so will the chase after big bucks.

DAVID E. ROSENBAUM and FRANCIS X. CLINES

I. Which of these potential witnesses are unavailable because they have left the country (A), and which because they have taken the Fifth Amendment (B)?

1. Charlie Trie, the former Little Rock restaurateur who raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for President Clinton's legal defense fund and re-election effort and is accused of being a conduit for foreign money.
2. John Huang, the one-time Lippo employee and Commerce Department appointee who became a prodigious fund-raiser among Asian Americans for the Democratic National Committee.



3. Mark Middleton, an Arkansan who became a White House political official and later sought business deals in Asia.

4. Webster L. Hubbell, a close friend of the Clintons who was a top Justice Department official, went to jail for cheating his Little Rock law firm and is being scrutinized for retainers he received after he left the Government.

5. James Riady, a Clinton supporter and a principal, with his father, Mochtar, in the Indonesian conglomerate known as the Lippo Group, which has wide-reaching business ties to China.

6. Johnny Chung, a frequent White House visitor — despite security suspicions that he was a "justifier" — who gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Democrats but took care to cram his vanity photo album with snapshots of Republican politicians and himself, too.

7. Maria Hsia, a California immigration consultant who arranged the visit by Vice President Al Gore to the Los Angeles Buddhist temple at which supposedly humble monks and nuns were used to channel donations to the Democrats.

8. Pauline Kanchanalak, a Thai businesswoman whose clients included large investors in China and whose donations to the Democrats are under scrutiny for possible foreign sources.

9. Roger Tamraz, an international wheeler-dealer who gave \$300,000 to the Democrats and succeeded in gaining an audience with President Clinton.

II. Who said the following:

1. "James Riady sent me."
2. "I put powder on my face." ("Tu zhi mo fen," in Chinese.)
3. "The White House is like a subway. You have to put in coins to open the gates."

4. "I don't even know what D.N.C. means. This whole fund-raising thing is like a football game I don't understand."

- A. Ambrosius Tung Young.
- B. Manlin Fuong.
- C. Johnny Chung.
- D. Arief Wiradinata.

III. Which of these statements were NOT made by Senator Fred Thompson?

1. "This is not a cocktail lounge where you can wander in and take a seat at the bar and tell your story to the bartender." (On why Charles F. C. Ruff, the White House counsel, was not allowed to testify.)

2. "If you have to eat crow, or maybe half a crow, it's better to eat it warm than cold." (Apologizing for misstating what President Clinton knew about the Democrats' swapping money with Ross H. Carey's campaign to be President of the Teamsters.)

3. "The guy lives in the White House. Works in the White House. He's the President. What's he supposed to do? Go to the pay phone at the 7-Eleven?" (Justifying President Clinton's fund-raising calls from the White House.)

4. "Watergate, I guess, spoiled us a little bit." (On why this year's hearings gained much less public attention than the ones a generation ago.)

5. "There are questions that lead one to believe that the body was moved." (On suggestions that Vincent W. Foster Jr. might not have committed suicide.)

IV. Who said the following?

1. "Illegal donations are apparently only the tip of the egg roll."

2. "I don't believe there's any Asia bashing... We ought to get on with immunizing these little nuns and monks, so we aren't worried about discriminating against them."

3. "No raise money, no get bonus."

- A. Representative Jack Kingston, Republican of Georgia.
- B. Senator Sam Brownback, Republican of Kansas.
- C. Senator Pete V. Domenici, Republican of New Mexico.

V. Which name does not belong here:

1. Man Ho.
2. Man Ya.
3. Yi Chu.
4. Fu Lin.

VI. Whose precepts are these?

1. "No controlling legal authority."
2. "We lack specific and credible evidence."
3. "Tain't mine and tain't enough."



4. "I'm not saying it didn't happen, but I have absolutely no recollection of it."

5. "No idea that the money came from overseas."

6. "It's the only reason to get access."

A. Haley Barbour, after discussing a loan guarantee with a businessman aboard a yacht in Hong Kong Harbor.

B. Attorney General Janet Reno, offering her signature explanation of why she de-

clined not to seek a special prosecutor to investigate campaign finance matters.

C. Vice President Gore, on why the telephone calls he made from the White House to solicit campaign contributions were not illegal.

D. A typical Southern politician explaining what "tainted money" is, according to Senator Max Cleland, Democrat of Georgia.

E. Harold M. Ickes, who was chief political officer in the White House during last year's campaign, giving his answer to almost every probing question he was asked in his Senate testimony.

F. Roger Tamraz, explaining why he was willing to donate so much money.

VII. Who or what is Bob?

1. The C.I.A. officer (his last name kept under wraps to protect his clandestine status) who lobbied the White House to gain Roger Tamraz an audience with President Clinton.

2. President Clinton's new chocolate Labrador retriever.

3. Buddies of Bill, the wealthy subset of F.O.B. (Friends of Bill) who were asked to donate \$50,000 or more to the Clinton-Gore campaign.

4. The name of the computer system at the Democratic National Committee, standing for "Beg or Borrow."



The Envelope, Please

I. 1. A; 2. B; 3. B; 4. B; 5. A; 6. B; 7. B; 8. A; 9. Neither. (He will testify at length to anyone who will listen.)

II. 1. D, the Indonesian donor of \$450,000, explaining to President Clinton how he happened to be at a White House coffee.

2. A, the Hong Kong businessman, using an Asian expression to explain why he gave large sums to Republicans.

3. C, explaining his impression of American politics after about 50 visits to the White House.

4. B, explaining her motives in giving \$35,000 to the Democrats for which her brother, Charlie Trie, reimbursed her.

III. 3 (said by Jay Leno) and 5 (said by Representative Dan Burton, Republican of Indiana, chairman of the House committee investigating campaign finance matters).

IV. 1. A; 2. C; 3. B.

V. 4, Fu Lin, which is the Chinese restaurant Charlie Trie ran in Little Rock that Mr. Clinton used to frequent. The other three are Buddhist nuns who attended a fund-raiser with Vice President Al Gore at a temple in California.

VI. 1. C; 2. B; 3. D; 4. E; 5. A; 6. F.

VII. 1.

Not Exactly Micro. Definitely Not Soft.

By JOHN MARKOFF

THE legal struggle between the Microsoft Corporation and the Justice Department may one day be remembered as the ham sandwich war.

The essence of the company's defense in its current antitrust case, according to the Justice Department's lawyers, is that no one, not even the Federal Government, can tell the world's largest software maker what it can do to its popular Windows 95 operating system. Therefore, Microsoft has claimed, if the company decides to add a ham sandwich — or anything else — to its Windows 95 menu, then so be it. The Justice Department is trying to convince a Federal District Court in Washington that Microsoft, which has risen to global dominance with brilliant and aggressive tactics leveraged off its operating system monopoly, believes it is above the law.

Achilles Heel

Hyperbole, perhaps. But no one is likely to dispute the sheer intensity with which the software publisher conducts its business. One only had to observe Microsoft's chairman, William H. Gates, at an industry conference in Arizona in October, just moments after he was informed that the Government had gone to court to block his strategy to dominate the Internet by bundling his company's World Wide Web browser as a standard part of Windows 95.

Standing at the back of a large auditorium, listening to his archrival Scott McNealy, the chairman of Sun Microsystems, Mr. Gates rocked back and forth on one foot with a let-me-at-him zeal, focusing on his competitor with laser-like precision. That fervor, according to a growing number of industry executives and consumer marketing experts, may ultimately prove to be the company's Achilles heel.

In fact, the very characteristics that have served Mr. Gates and his top executives so well until now — an assertive and occasionally belligerent take-no-prisoners business style — are exactly the wrong traits needed to go forward in a world where the company must increasingly behave more like a diplomat than a warrior.

And so Microsoft could find that even if it prevails over the Government, it will have given the average consumer a reason to hate a company that until now has been best known as a maker of cool software led by a bespectacled whiz kid.

"The guy on the street who used to see Bill Gates as a benevolent nerd is now looking at him like Old Man Potter, the guy who had to have it all in 'It's a Wonderful Life,'" said Michael Baldwin, a senior partner at Ogilvy & Mather, the New York-based advertising agency.

Mr. Gates's image certainly hasn't been helped by the blizzard of Microsoft legal filings in recent weeks. The company has dug in and returned fire against Justice Department lawyers who are seeking to force Microsoft to separate its Internet Explorer browser software from Windows 95.

Microsoft's lawyers are trying to persuade a Federal appeals court to take the case away from Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, who has chided the company for maintaining that its browser and Windows are indivisible, and to toss out the judge's appointment of a special master to study the case's technical issues.

"This is both a strategic and tactical mistake," said Peter Sealey, an adjunct business professor at the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Sealey, who was head of global marketing at the Coca-Cola Corporation until 1993, and was an executive at the company when it fought a similar antitrust battle with the Federal Trade Commission, said Microsoft was badly underestimating the enormous amount of time that a prolonged legal battle will require from its top executives.

Even more important, by adopting its go-for-broke legal strategy, Microsoft appears to be risking its most valuable asset: a reputation as one of America's classiest consumer companies.

"They are in danger of losing the war over public perception if Joe Sixpack ends up believing" that the company is force-feeding its Internet software to consumers, Mr. Sealey said.

A Perception Problem

The peril of ignoring consumer sentiment is a bitter lesson that the Intel Corporation learned quickly in 1994 when angry customers bombarded the company with complaints after Intel tried to ignore a flaw in its flagship Pentium microprocessor that caused math errors.

Microsoft, while publicly taking a hard line, has been scrambling to mount a damage-control strategy in recent weeks by hiring Washington lobbyists and public relations firms, so far with little positive impact.

"I ask you, do we have a choice?" said Mich. Matthews, who heads Microsoft's corporate public relations office. "I'm as concerned about how this is being written up as the next person, but this is striking at the heart of the company."

Given the fickle habits of consumers, Microsoft has plenty to worry about. And no company enjoys being confronted with demonstrations like the one that took place recently at Humboldt State University, in which 600 students, furious at being forced by administrators to use Windows 95, replaced the school's entrance sign with one reading "Microsoft University."



Bill Gates ponders another question, this one at a Moscow news conference.

A New Little Pill Threatens to Trim a Growth Industry

Continued From Page 9

proved treatments like Propecia have turned the anti-hair-loss business into, pardon the expression, a growth industry. She is not alone.

"This is just the 21st-century medicine man coming through town, saying this new mixture will put hair on your head like they did 75 or 80 years ago," declared John T. Capps 3d, the founder of Bald-Headed Men of America, a North Carolina-based group that says it has 20,000 members.

And then there is Sy Sperling, the former swimming-pool salesman who found fame not only as president of the Hair Club for Men but also as a client. "I anticipate our sales going up from Propecia," Mr. Sperling said. "It doesn't mean the majority of men who try it will look in the mirror and feel thick, full hair," he said. "Very few guys are going to get a cosmetically significant amount of hair. That's why things get very busy for us when products like this come out."

The jury is still out on just what to expect, but before-and-after photographs submitted to dermatologists by Propecia's manufacturer showed visible improvement in two-thirds of the men taking the pill,

ranging from slight to great — after three months. And Dr. Vera Price, one of the dermatologists, pronounced the results "real hair; this is not peach fuzz."

Mr. Sperling, on the other hand, remembers the head-scratching he did when the Government approved minoxidil, the anti-baldness drug marketed as Rogaine. "My immediate reaction was, we're out of business," he said. "How could we compete with a drug that grows your hair back? Now this is 10 years later and we're thriving. We were in 30 cities then. Today we're in 75 cities and planning to go public."

Grow Vegetables, Not Hair

Will the advent of Propecia thin out the crop of sociological studies on baldness (which are usually followed by three-page bibliographies citing books or articles with titles like "Measuring the Physical in Physical Attractiveness" or "Hair Loss and Electability: The Bald Truth")? Maybe, maybe not. But it probably won't prevent Men's Health magazine from covering baldness as much as it can. Its current issue advises balding readers to grow vegetables. This won't stop hair loss, the magazine said, but it cited a Missouri horticulture spe-

cialist who found that human hair is a potent fertilizer that could accelerate plant growth. "Just stand with your pate over the pumpkin patch," the magazine said, "and start combing."

The same issue cites a British study that found that heavy drinkers who are predisposed to hair loss rarely go bald. This may or may have to do with liver damage cutting testosterone production. As the magazine put it: "Drink like a fish every day, and you'll die of a stroke or cirrhosis well before your hair falls out."

By comparison, Propecia would seem a sensible alternative, though many bald men were taking a wait-

and-see attitude "If this will help one or two more people think they're growing 126 more hairs than last week, that's fine," Mr. Capps said. "For me, I'm not going to lose a hair over it. Or any sleep." He said his own hair "started waving goodbye" when he was 15. "I love the statistic that says the average person will spend seven to eight years combing, drying and fixing their head of hair. That's seven years that I can do other things."

No Comfort

Which is about as long as it takes court cases against anti-baldness products to be settled. Ms. Durham prosecuted the marketer of a treatment called Helsinki Formula after the company ran an infomercial, featuring the actor Robert Vaughn, that promised to regrow hair by cleansing follicles supposedly blocked by cholesterol.

Helsinki Formula had sales of more than \$100 million, Ms. Durham said, but there was no scientific evidence to substantiate its claims. Her agency eventually reached a settlement with the marketer, but she said the company had declared bankruptcy by then. This left users with no better chance of getting back their money than their hair.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Ideas & Trends

New Parental Perk: A Parking Space

By ERIC SCHMITT

SURVIVE the holiday shopping season? Now the trick is braving the crowds at the mall with cranky youngsters in tow to return all the gifts that didn't fit, match or tickle anyone's fancy. The process starts with the desperate hunt for a parking space that's not two miles away from the shopping center.

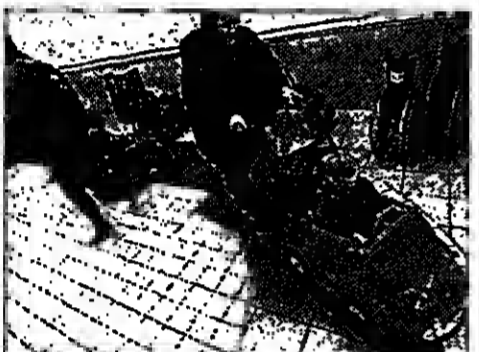
But the parking gods have been smiling lately, at least on certain consumers. With an eye to boosting their profits, a growing number of mall operators and large retailers around the country are reserving parking places for expectant mothers and parents with small children.

Retailers call these places stork or stroller parking. They are located next to the familiar handicapped spaces, just a few paces from a store's entrance, and often are marked with signs of a cute little stork holding a baby.

A Money Raiser

Malls from Connecticut to Florida to California are making room for the new spaces. So are large retailers, including Sears and Toys "R" Us. Two big supermarket chains, Kroger and Publix, are both offering the preferred parking to entice customers in Atlanta. In most places, the system is voluntary and depends on the honor system.

In Florida's Miami-Dade County, though, a



Isn't this special? Bright red sports-car strollers at the Meriden mall.

year-old law requires businesses with more than 100 parking spaces to set aside some for parents with children under 3. The county has sold more than 11,000 permits at 50 cents a month for families to use the spaces. The \$10,000 raised is going toward child-abuse prevention programs.

"The program attracts shoppers who might go elsewhere," said Maria de la Milera, special projects coordinator for Team Metro, the county agency overseeing the program.

Stork parking is the latest in a series of amenities that many of the nation's 44,000 shopping malls are offering harried parents,

Ideology intrudes on a small convenience for pregnant women.

including diaper changing tables in men's and women's restrooms, nursing stations, valet parking, play areas and supervised child care.

"The retail landscape is so highly competitive now that every type of shopping center is trying to get a competitive advantage by making the whole shopping experience more user friendly," said Mark J. Schoifer, a spokesman for the International Council of Shopping Centers in New York City.

At the Idylwood Plaza mall in this leafy suburb of Washington, the new parking places have won legions of fans. "It's great," said John McCreary, a 43-year-old accountant from Arlington, Va., who with his pregnant wife, Hope, was helping his 2-year-old son, Joe, into his car seat. "The spaces are not as far a walk when your arms are full of groceries and a crying baby."

But the newfound perk for the stroller set is not sneering everyone. A small but persistent band of critics, spearheaded by some women's and handicapped rights advocates, say stork parking is insulting, discriminatory or unnecessary.

This year, a bill was introduced in the Louisiana state legislature that classified pregnant women as having impaired mobility and allowed them to have temporary



Parents enrolling in the free program at the Meriden Square Mall in Meriden, Conn., park next to spaces reserved for the disabled.

handicapped parking permits. The bill ran into a firestorm of opposition and was withdrawn. Legislation in Vermont suffered a similar fate in 1993. Another bill, in Rhode Island, died this year, but will probably be revived in 1998.

Target Stores, the Minneapolis-based retailer, scuttled its special parking for pregnant women earlier this year when customers voiced mix reviews.

"I don't have any objection to being kind to pregnant women, but a pregnancy that doesn't create a disability probably doesn't need any special protections," said Kim Gandy, executive vice president of the National Organization for Women.

Searing Criticism

The Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., the country's largest shopping center, installed 15 front-row stork spaces, and has received mostly favorable responses. But the criticism has been searing.

"As a 1970's activist in the women's movement, I believe a policy like this has great potential to erode exactly what we worked so hard for and is taken for granted today," Virginia Watkins, a 58-year-old tour guide from Minnetonka, Minn., wrote the mall.

Mark Steck, a 48-year-old industrial equipment salesman and father of two grown children, from Eagan, Minn., wrote: "Since the beginning of time, it has been quite a natural phenomenon for women to conceive, gestate, deliver and raise children. It seems very strange that now we must give them special status because they choose to take on this responsibility."

But these naysayers have it all wrong, say marketing experts.

"What's going on here has less to do with the idea that pregnant women are handicapped than the fact that pregnant women represent a group of people who are about to spend very large amounts of money," said Bobby Calder, a professor of marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg Gradu-

ate School of Management.

Retailers say the spaces offer greater safety and convenience to parents with children. But women with children are also the dominant shoppers in supermarkets, making an average of 2.2 trips to grocery stores a week, according to the Food Marketing Institute in Washington.

New Heights

At the Meriden Square Mall in Meriden, Conn., officials have taken the special parking idea to new heights. The mall created a stroller club last summer that entitles parents to park up close in bright red stalls and push their children around in strollers that resemble racing cars. So far more than 1,300 families have signed up for the free program.

"We've had no backlash whatsoever," said J. Bruce Eagleston, the mall's general manager. "Kids can be a handful walking through a parking lot."

'We Have Struck An Iceberg,' Said a Survivor

THE phrase "Senate investigation" today conjures up made-for-TV hearings in search of a defining moment.

But one Senate inquiry bursting with such moments took place before the advent of electronic mass media: It was the 1912 investigation into the sinking of the Titanic, begun just days after the supposedly unsinkable ocean liner struck an iceberg and went down in the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage, with the loss of more than two-thirds of the 2,233 people aboard.

Details from those 17 days of hearings are primary source material for the epic new film "Titanic."

The hearings, before a special panel of the Senate Commerce Committee, were opened in the ornate East Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on April 19, 1912, four days after the Titanic sank and the day after survivors arrived in port.

The panel's chairman, Senator William Alden Smith, Republican of Michigan, had rushed from Washington to insure that shipping officials and crew, most of them British, couldn't leave the country before being questioned. Later the hearings moved to Washington.

The more than 1,100 pages of testimony, most of it originally transcribed by the Senator's secretary, William McKinstry, yield a narrative of the disaster in the words of those who had just lived it. Excerpts follow.

TOM KUNTZ

Senator Smith: Did you make any request for glasses on the Titanic?

Fleet: We asked [for] them in Southampton [England], and they said there was none for us.

Smith: You had a pair of glasses from Belfast to Southampton?

Fleet: Yes, sir, but none from Southampton to New York.

Smith: Suppose you had glasses such as you had between Belfast and Southampton, could you have seen this black object [the iceberg] at a greater distance?

Fleet: We could have seen it a bit sooner.

Smith: How much sooner?

Fleet: Well, enough to get out of the way.

Maj. Arthur Peuchen, a first-class passenger from Toronto: Sunday evening I dined with my friends, Markham Molson, Mr. Allison and Mrs. Allison; and their daughter was there for a short time. The dinner was an exceptionally good dinner. It seemed to be a better bill of fare than usual, although they are all good. After dinner my friends and I went to the sitting-out room and had some coffee. I then went up to the smoking room and joined Mr. Beatty, Mr. McCaffery and another English gentleman who was going to Canada. We sat chatting and smoking there until



Bruce Ismay (mustache), head of the Titanic's parent company, before Senator William Alden Smith's panel in New York

probably 20 minutes after 11, or it may have been a little later than that. I then bid them good night. ... I had only reached my room and was starting to undress when I felt as though a heavy wave had struck our ship. ... Knowing that it was a calm night and that it was an unusual thing to occur on a calm night, I immediately put my overcoat on and went up on deck. As I started to go through the grand stairway I met a friend who said, "Why, we have struck an iceberg."

There weren't nearly enough lifeboats:

Senator Smith: From what you have said, you discriminated entirely in the interest of the passengers — first the women and children — in filling these lifeboats?

Charles Lightoller, second officer: Yes, sir.

Smith: Why did you do that? Because of the captain's orders or because of the rule of the sea?

Lightoller: The rule of human nature.

Some men managed to break the rule:

Smith: And how many people did you put into [the lifeboat]?

Harold Lowe, fifth officer: Fifty-eight.

Smith: How many women, do you know?

Lowe: They were all women and children, bar one passenger, who was an Italian, and he sneaked in ... dressed like a woman.

James Cameron's new film alludes to Isidor and Ida Straus of New York with a shot of an elderly couple lying in their state-room bed as the water rises beneath them. Survivors confirmed that Mrs. Straus would not leave her husband:

Hugh Woolner, first-class passenger: She would not get in [the lifeboat]. I tried to get her to do so and she refused altogether to leave Mr. Straus. ... We went up to Mr. Straus, and I said to him: "I am sure nobody would object to an old gentleman like you getting in. There seems to be room in this boat." He said, "I will not go before the other

men."

Mr. Woolner and another man leaped off the ship and onto a lifeboat being lowered past them:

Woolner: It was full up to the bow, and I said: "There is nobody in the bows. Let us make a jump for it. You go first." And he jumped out and tumbled in head over heels into the bow, and I jumped, too, and hit the gunwale with my chest ... and I sort of bounced off the gunwale and caught the gunwale with my fingers, and slipped off backwards.

Smith: Into the water?

Woolner: As my legs dropped down I felt that they were in the sea.

Smith: You pulled yourself up out of the water?

Woolner: Yes. And then I hooked my right heel over the gunwale, and [his companion] caught hold of me and lifted me in.

Mr. Lightoller, the second officer, said he didn't leave the ship; rather, as it sank, the ship left him. He was sucked underwater:

Lightoller: As I say, I was on top of the officers' quarters, and there was nothing more to be done. This ship then took a dive, and I turned face forward and also took a dive.

Senator Smith: From which side?

Lightoller: From on top, practically midships, a little to the starboard side, where I had got to, and I was driven back against a bowler, which is a large thing that ... faces forward to the wind and which then goes down to the stokehold. But there is a grating there, and it was against this grating that I was sucked by the water and held there.

Smith: Was your head above water?

Lightoller: No, sir.

Smith: You were underwater?

Lightoller: Yes, sir. And then this explosion, or whatever it was, took place. Certainly, I think it was the boilers exploded. There

was a terrific blast of air and water, and I was blown out clear.

Out in the lifeboats, many didn't want to go back to save those in the water freezing to death in their life vests and screaming for help. One boat did belatedly, saving only a handful:

Edward Buley, seaman: There were a good few dead, sir. Of course, you could not discern them exactly on account of the wreckage; but we turned over several of them to see if they were alive. It looked as though none of them were drowned. They looked as though they were frozen.

Senator Duncan Fletcher, Democrat of Florida: They were head and shoulders out of the water?

Buley: Yes, sir.

Fletcher: They were not, apparently, drowned?

Buley: It looked as though they were frozen altogether, sir.

Herbert Pitman, the third officer, was questioned on why he didn't use his lifeboat to save people:

Smith: I have no desire to lacerate your feelings, but we must know whether you drifted in the vicinity of that scene for an hour.

Pitman: Oh yes, we were in the vicinity of that wreck the whole time.

Smith: Did this anguish or these cries of distress die away?

Pitman: Yes, they — they died away gradually.

Smith: Did they continue during most of the hour?

Pitman: Oh yes, I think so. It may have been a shorter time — of course, I didn't watch every five minutes.

Smith: I understand that, and I am not trying to ask about a question of five minutes. Is that all you care to say?

Pitman: I'd rather you'd have left that [testimony] out altogether.

Smith: I know you would, but I must know what efforts you made to save the lives of passengers and crew under your charge. If that is all the effort you made, say so.

Pitman: That is all, sir. That's all the effort I made.

Perhaps most public opprobrium was reserved for the first witness before the hearings, J. Bruce Ismay, British president of the Titanic's parent company, and the man implicated in urging the ship's captain to risk higher speeds. Early in the disaster, Mr. Ismay hopped into a lifeboat to save himself and, as he testified, he never looked back:

Smith: You did not see her go down?

Ismay: No, sir.

Smith: How far were you from the ship?

Ismay: I do not know how far we were away. I was sitting with my back to the ship. I was rowing all the time I was in the boat. We were pulling away.

Smith: You did not see her go down?

Ismay: I am glad I did not.

What's Inside That Counts

By BARRY MEIER

MOST smokers look at a cigarette as a simple assemblage of chopped tobacco wrapped in paper. But think how appealing they might find smoking if they knew they were also getting such goodies as artificial milk chocolate, vanilla extract, patchouli oil, propylene glycol and vetiver oil, a reddish brown oil made from an aromatic grass.

Those are a few of the two dozen additives found in L&M brand cigarettes, which are made by Liggett Group Inc., which broke ranks with industry colleagues this year and acknowledged that smoking causes cancer. It was also the only tobacco company to comply recently with a Massachusetts requirement that cigarette producers list ingredients.

Producers add ingredients to give a cigarette brand a unique taste. But regulators have been far more interested in identifying other additives that they believe are used by manufacturers to physiologically affect a smoker's senses and mood.

Studies have shown that ammonia and compounds containing it can increase the nicotine available to a smoker. Producers have repeatedly denied, however, that they use ammonia to manipulate nicotine levels.

Greg Connolly, the director of the tobacco control program for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and others have argued that it is important for smokers to know that even innocuous-sounding ingredients like licorice and sugar can turn into carcinogens when incinerated in a cigarette.

But there's not much comfort even for those smokers who like their tobacco straight. A top scientist at R. J. Reynolds Tobacco testified recently that even the company's new line of additive-free Winston brand cigarettes were as dangerous as cigarettes with additives.

These are the ingredients listed by L&M: Blended tobacco, water, high fructose corn syrup, glycerol, propylene glycol, sucrose, invert sugar, casing flavor, natural and artificial licorice flavor, menthol, artificial milk chocolate, natural chocolate flavor, artificial tobacco flavors, valerian root extract, molasses extract, vanilla extract, vanillin, isovaleric acid, cedarwood oil, phenylacetic acid, patchouli oil, hexanoic acid, vetiver oil, citibanol oil, 3-methylpentanoic acid, denatured ethanol.

The World



In Hanoi, Japanese electronic goods are flooding the market, one more sign that average incomes are continuing to rise.

Expensive lingerie is visible now in the shop windows of Vietnam's capital and other major cities, where some women can afford it.

Hanoi Now, Meet Saigon Then

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

SHO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, as most of the 5 million people who live here still call this place, was supposed to become Hanoi after the Vietnamese Communists won the war in 1975. Instead, Hanoi has become Saigon.

Up in the northern capital, loudly buzzing swarms of Honda motor scooters clog the narrow streets, which only 15 years ago were filled mostly with bicycles. Stalls run by small entrepreneurs selling or recycling everything conceivable pack the streets and market halls there just as they do here in Saigon. There is nothing that is not for sale someplace in either city, including sex.

Four decades after the French pulled out in 1954, the Communists have preserved Hanoi's spacious French villas and ochre-colored administrative buildings, not allowing them to be subjected to the ravages inflicted on similar tree-shaded neighborhoods in Saigon by the American influx of the 1960's. But except for the absence of G.I.'s, Hanoi now feels and sounds for all the world like Saigon did back then — a wild, on-the-make city driven by powerful forces beyond its control.

Thirty years ago, those uncontrollable forces were the destructive winds of war. The Communists won the war, of course, but at first they didn't seem to know what to do with the victory and watched millions of their countrymen flee misery and oppression.

Then, a decade ago, Ho Chi Minh's successors changed economic course and opened Vietnam to the global economy, and recently as many as 200,000 overseas Vietnamese have been coming back each year to visit, and even to invest.

The B-52 Becomes a Drink

Yet it would be premature to conclude, as some have done after downing a B-52 cocktail in a trendy Hanoi eatery like the Indochine, that America or the values of democracy and free enterprise ultimately won the war.

The Vietnamese Communists — like the Chinese authorities or the Government in Saigon

during the war — want free enterprise without undisciplined democracy. There is still only one party here, Ho Chi Minh's, and the authorities muzzle the Vietnamese press and cinema.

Foreign investors, on the other hand, are welcome to bring their money, and companies from Southeast Asian countries have poured it in in recent years, with more than \$5 billion from Singapore alone since 1988, \$4 billion from Taiwan, \$3.7 billion from Hong Kong and \$3.3 billion from Japan. One result is the emergence of skyscraper skylines both here and in Hanoi in just the past few years.

But the entrepreneurs are not welcome to

A land gripped by forces out of control — like the chance to make a buck.

bring in ideas the Government here regards as subversive. Any province or district chief can impose administrative restraints on the freedom of any citizen considered dangerous to the regime, and any overseas Vietnamese fitting that description soon find themselves on a plane back to wherever they came from.

Government censors watch vigilantly over every medium of expression, and their threats can be Draconian. They told one Vietnamese artist who returned to produce a commercial film in Vietnam that if he failed to abide by their strictures, his relatives living here would be held responsible.

"There are dissidents in this country who have tried to work with overseas Vietnamese against the Government, but military and police measures have kept them under control," said Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Ha, the senior official in Saigon dealing with Vietnamese from abroad.

Still, the same kind of heady excitement that was in the air in Moscow in the late 1980's, when Mikhail S. Gorbachev was trying to reform Communism there, is blowing in the wind here.

Fifteen years ago, when the Marxist-Leninist vise had Saigon tightly by the throat, few Vietnamese dared disobey an official ban on talking with foreign visitors. Today, with nearly 2 million tourists a year in the country, the injunction is on the books but rarely enforced.

Freedom to Profit

In addition, economic freedom has vastly expanded the sphere in which ordinary Vietnamese are able to make decisions for themselves, and they are using it to the full. "The police are still there, but they put a lot less pressure on us," said one small entrepreneur who, because he had worked for Americans during the war, found himself frozen out of the Socialist economy for years afterward.

Even at that, he was one of the comparatively lucky ones; officers who had served in the South Vietnamese Army were put through "re-education" in prison camps for as long as 10 years. Others tainted by association with the Saigon regime or with the Americans were cast aside to scrape by as best they could, while committed Communists and people from North Vietnam got preference for jobs in state-run companies and in admission to universities that are the training ground for the governing and commercial elite.

Nowadays, some people here in Saigon say that northerners continue to benefit from reverse discrimination in the state sector, but because the private sector is growing so fast, it doesn't matter as much as it used to. "Private companies don't care which side your father was on during the war," one 25-year-old office worker here said. Conversations with a number of Vietnamese her age leave the impression that the office worker's generation is not interested in settling historical scores — just in catching up with history.

"As they grow more prosperous, there'll be more respect for human rights," said Douglas B. (Pete) Peterson, who returned to Hanoi as the American Ambassador last spring, having spent six and a half years there as a prisoner of war after his Air Force plane was shot down in 1968.

Dr. Ha, who spent 28 years in France before coming back in 1976, agreed. "We will be more tolerant as we get stronger," he said.

Borrowing Asia's Troubles

Continued From Page 9

be a preferred customer, someone worth millions, whose savings can be taken if the speculation goes wrong. But the big players in this game are not individuals. They are investment houses like Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch and hedge funds that specialize in risky investments, the carry trade being one of them.

"A whole panoply of financial institutions are engaged in this business, trading for them-

Cheap yen looked like a steal. It still does. Only the risk is expensive.

selves," said Henry Kaufman, an economist and money manager. "The level is unprecedented."

No one really knows how much of this risky money is coming into the American stock and bond markets through the carry trade, from foreigners or Americans. The amounts invested from overseas are clearly way up in recent quarters, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis reports. But neither the bureau nor the Bank for International Settlements, which tracks this sort of data, has breakdowns by currency or by type of transaction.

"What you have to do is infer," said Russell Scholl, a bureau economist. "There is not going to be hard evidence."

What he and others infer is that the carry trade is alive and thriving on Wall Street, but the amounts involved, \$100 billion to \$200 billion, are relatively small in the multitrillion-dollar American markets. If the gamble backfires, stock and bond prices might gyrate for a while.

The Federal Reserve might be alarmed. And some big financial institutions will report eye-catching losses for the quarter in question.

Asia is another matter. Lending yen in the American market has far less impact on the national economy than lending foreign currencies in much smaller Thailand or South Korea. The huge bailouts by the International Monetary Fund are in large part to reimburse foreign lenders whose gambles went wrong. Japanese banks and European banks with operations in Japan were the biggest players, but American banks lent plenty, too.

The borrower in this case may have been a Korean industrialist seeking to build a factory. He went to a Korean bank and learned that the cheapest loan originated in yen. The industrialist borrowed in the Korean currency, the won, and agreed to make repayment in won. Say he borrowed \$10 million worth of won. His bank then financed that loan by borrowing an equal amount in yen from a Japanese or European or American bank.

These foreign bankers borrowed the yen at less than 1 percent, re-lent it at 2.5 to 3 percent to the Korean banker, who charged the industrialist a higher rate, say 8 or 9 percent — all nice markups for the banks. Sometimes the industrialist went directly to the foreign lender, bypassing his local banker and borrowing for less than 8 or 9 percent. And sometimes the loans were not in yen, but in dollars. After all, dollar loans are available for as little as 5 percent and, re-lent in Korea, can still produce a nice markup.

There was, of course, a gamble. This lending worked only if the won kept its value against the yen and the dollar. The industrialist made his monthly loan payment of, say, \$150,000 in won and his Korean banker converted these won into an equal sum in yen or dollars to repay the overseas lender. That worked for a long time, and then two things happened. The won fell in value so that the industrialist's monthly payment no longer was enough to purchase \$150,000

in yen or dollars. And many industrialists found that their new factories failed to make money, so they defaulted on their loans.

In various forms in different countries, that is the essence of the Asian crisis. By the best and most recent estimate available, South Korea owed \$100 billion as of last December to foreign banks, mainly in Japan, Germany, the United States and France. The International Monetary Fund's \$77 billion bailout is intended in large part to help Korea repay these creditors. So is the Clinton Administration's decision, announced last week, to join other industrial countries in supplying an additional \$10 billion in emergency aid to Korea. The Administration has also prodded American banks to postpone their deadlines for loan repayments. Unless they do, the won is likely to keep falling in value.

Fault All Over

So who's to blame for all this mess, and what can be done? The Koreans are lambasted for reckless borrowing. And the foreign banks are increasingly singled out for encouraging the reckless borrowing, which for the banks was so profitable. But the system is also at fault. It periodically creates situations in which money can be borrowed at a low rate in one currency and re-lent in another at a much higher rate. The loans are invariably short-term, for a year or less, but always with the promise that they will be rolled over indefinitely as long as one currency or another does not lose value.

That is like betting on a lame horse to win. Devaluation always seems to catch lenders and borrowers off guard, although they bounce back for more, the lure of easy money being rather powerful. The solution, some experts say, is new global regulations or capital controls that impose restrictions on such lending across borders or make it less profitable. As Mr. Kaufman, the economist and money manager, said, "Markets don't always work the way they should."

Turks Reinvent Their World

By STEPHEN KINZER

JUST a year ago, Turkey seemed to be setting out on a profoundly important geopolitical journey. Guided by an Islamic-oriented Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, it was turning away from the West and toward the Muslim world. Mr. Erbakan sent shivers down spines in Washington as he turned his back on Turkey's traditional allies and embraced the leaders of Iran and Libya.

Today the circumstances are radically different. Mr. Erbakan has been forced from power, and his party may soon be banned on the ground that it seeks to undermine the secular and Western-oriented basis of Turkish society. But his successor, Mesut Yilmaz, evidently shares his belief that Turkey needs a new set of friends.

Mr. Yilmaz, with the backing of the military that helped oust Mr. Erbakan, disagrees deeply with his predecessor's belief that Turkey should embrace the Islamic world. But he agrees that Turkey's future no longer lies in embracing the exclusively European identity that many Turks have sought for generations.

New Partners

Under Mr. Yilmaz, Turkey is striving to redefine its place in the world, by tying its future to America, Russia, Israel and the new nations of the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Balkans.

Turkey first applied for membership in the European Union in 1963, and for much of the time since then it has sat patiently at Europe's closed gate. Two weeks ago, at a summit in Luxembourg, European leaders again rejected Turkey's plea that it should at least be given some encouragement, if it could not be admitted quickly. Mr. Yilmaz reacted angrily, freezing ties with the European Union and setting out to reshape his country's foreign policy.

In the world Mr. Yilmaz sees, Turkey will no longer base its policy on the suggestions, criticisms and occasional insults that issue forth from Brussels. Like a suitor too often spurned, it will stop banging at Europe's door. It may still seek to improve its human rights record, resolve the Kurdish conflict and improve relations with Greece, but it will do so without guidance from the European Union.

A new leader got tired of knocking at Europe's door.

"They have used our application for full membership in the Union as a means of leverage," Mr. Yilmaz said in an interview. "Nobody should think that Turkey will be forced to accept some unacceptable formulas just because we don't want to be left out of the E.U."

Immediately after the disappointment in Luxembourg, Mr. Yilmaz met with Russian and American leaders. He was warmly received in Washington by President Clinton, who emphasized how important it is for the United States to have a dependable ally wedged between the turbulent Balkans, Caucasus and Middle East. Soon after his return to Ankara he received Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia, and after signing a \$13.5 billion gas deal, both men pledged to begin clearing the debris left by centuries of rivalry. Mr. Chernomyrdin said he was working to arrange a visit to Turkey by President Boris N. Yeltsin, and there

were hints in Washington that President Clinton might also come calling. Last week Mr. Yilmaz visited Turkmenistan, which controls part of the vast oil and gas reserve in and around the Caspian Sea. Turkey's booming economy is starved for energy, and able to offer much trade and expertise to neighbors in exchange for fuel.

The final major piece in Turkey's new strategic positioning is Israel. The two countries' armies were working together even under the Islamic-led Government, and now their Governments have become astonishingly close. Generals, cabinet ministers and legislators are working on scores of development projects and designing what they hope will be a long-term military alliance. Next month Turkish, Israeli and American warships will join in a military exercise in the Mediterranean code-named "Reliant Mermaid."

These steps add up to a very new message from Ankara, one that may reshape the political map of the re-

The Army got scared when it looked at Islam.

gion. Turkey is saying that it no longer needs to count on either the European Union or the Islamic world. Instead it will forge what Mr. Yilmaz calls "strategic partnerships" with the United States and Israel, try to strengthen its ties with Russia and renew its effort to make friends in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Balkans.

The Risks

It is a high-stakes gamble. The Israeli piece of the new puzzle seems firm, based on each country's desperate need for a friend in a very dangerous neighborhood. Yet although many Turks are sympathetic to Israel, they are deeply upset with the current Israeli Government, which they view as oppressive and needlessly brutal to their Palestinian cousins. A close alliance between the two countries makes strategic sense to Turkish military planners, but it could stir popular resentment from which Islamic political leaders might profit.

The United States recognizes the value of Turkey's friendship, although powerful Greek, Armenian and pro-Kurdish lobbies in Washington will make it difficult for President Clinton to draw the two countries as close together as he would like. Russia, consumed with problems at home and tugged toward Greece by history and religion, cannot be counted upon. And while most of the Caucasian, Central Asian and Balkan countries are open to Turkey, Turkey must compete for influence there with other powerful players.

"It is a policy no longer fixated on Europe," said Foreign Minister Ismail Cem. "Turkey has a geo-strategic dimension that it previously was not very conscious of. With the downfall of the old Soviet order, a lot of new problems but also a lot of new chances surfaced. Something like 20 countries with whom we have historical and cultural affinities became independent states."

"These changes, and a growing consciousness of our European and Asian identity, have provided us with a new approach to this vast area instead of just being concentrated on one thing," Mr. Cem said.

"That fixation was the result of a limited outlook, of feeling that we had to resolve a conflict over whether we are European or Asian," he said. "Culturally, historically and geographically, we are a global state, and now we are becoming more aware of that."



Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz with President Clinton in Washington.

ECONOMY

A Company Where Retirement Is a Dirty Word

By JULIE FLAHERTY

NEEDHAM, Mass.
As far as he can recall, Frederick Hartman has never dismissed an employee. In its 65-year history, his company has never had a layoff. And he has never asked anyone to retire.

Quite the contrary. When Mary Boyd retired recently — at the age of 89 — Mr. Hartman was not at all happy about it.

"That got me ticked off," he said, shaking his head in disgust. "Her daughter pushed her into retirement. She was a great worker. I hope I'm as sharp at that age."

Mr. Hartman is president of the Vita Needle Company in Needham. And at Vita Needle, there is no such thing as mandatory retirement; even the suggestion is scoffed at.

After all, the average age here is 73. Most of the 35 employees joined the small company as their second career, after retiring from jobs as engineers, nurses, bakers or what have you.

Not that Mr. Hartman, who is 45, is just being nice. He says he recruits older people because he finds them loyal, responsible and eligible for Medicare — eliminating the need for company-paid health coverage.

Rosa Finnegan, a retired waitress and a widow, took a job here a year

ago because her Social Security check was not paying the taxes on her Needham home.

Like most of those who work and chat at the wood benches on the factory floor, Ms. Finnegan praises the flexible hours, the plant's location a few miles from her home and the opportunity just to keep busy. The work, assembling small metal components by hand, is less than exciting, but, she asked, "Who else is going to hire me at 86?"

ACTUALLY, in today's tight labor market, someone just might. The national unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in November, the lowest since 1970, and as it has fallen, employers have sought out workers in age brackets they might not otherwise have considered. In 1995, some 3.8 million people 65 and older had jobs; that is 2.9 percent of that age group, up from 2.5 percent a decade earlier, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

When the American Association of Retired Persons Bulletin asked its readers to complete a questionnaire about their employment, 2,700 people working after age 65 wrote in, many of them former retirees. "We think it's a growing phenomenon as the labor market tightens and employers are finding it hard to fill jobs," said Robert Lewis, senior editor of the publication.

At Vita Needle, though, hiring older

workers is nothing new. In 1934, Mr. Hartman's great-grandfather, Oscar E. Nutter, came out of retirement from the textile industry to start the business, which makes a variety of industrial and medical needles. He was 68, and he ran the company until three days before his death at 86. His nephew Carl Nutter worked until he was 88. And despite gall bladder surgery recently, Fred Hartman's father, Mason, at 72, the employee with the most seniority, was soon back at his desk keeping the books.

WHEN Fred Hartman took over the family business 10 years ago, he saw that recruiting retirees would be in keeping with the company's experience with older workers. Mr. Hartman hired Bill Ferson, who was 68, as a design engineer. Now 78, Mr. Ferson is still here because, he said, "they treat us like human beings."

Lena Ferrara, who is 73, said Mr. Hartman called her not long after she left her job at an oil company and asked her to help out. Last week, she put in 40 hours. "He didn't give me a chance to retire," she said.

Having a staff of predominantly older workers has its ups and downs, Mr. Hartman acknowledged. But he is committed to them.

"They are motivated; they take care of the equipment; they don't have the P.T.A. meetings or the kids in day care," Mr. Hartman said. Most important, he said, "coming to work is a high priority" for them.

According to a 1993 report by the Commonwealth Fund in New York, most employers surveyed nationally said workers over 55 were better than younger workers when it came to work attitude, turnover and absenteeism. Another report by the fund



Marian Archibald, 87, is among the 35 employees at the Vita Needle Company in Needham, Mass. The company offers flexible schedules.

found that of older Americans who did not work, one in seven was willing and able to do so.

"This work is kind of like therapy," Ms. Ferrara said. "Getting up early, getting dressed every day, not sitting around in your pajamas. It was too boring to be at home when no one's there. You clean your house for two days in a row, and then what?"

Almost all the older workers in Vita Needle's nonunion work force are part-time, some working as little as 15 hours a week. Two-thirds of

them are women, with the workers' pay ranging from \$6 to \$12 an hour. The company promotes flex time, giving workers a lot of leeway in their choice of workdays and hours. Many employees have keys to the building, so some come in before daylight while others work into the evening; the last ones out shut off the lights.

"Older people are more likely to leave jobs that are physically demanding or have rigid schedules, and more likely to re-enter jobs with

flexible schedules," said Diane Herz, an economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The downsides of such laissez-faire scheduling, Mr. Hartman said, is occasionally not having all the hands he needs when he needs them. "Summers and winters are harder on us," he said. "People want to go to Florida, or go down to Cape Cod with their grandchildren for a few weeks."

But his workers, he noted, do not need as much supervision. "People are letting themselves in at 5 in the morning," he said. "I'm not here telling them what to do."

A paper tacked on the bulletin board reads: "Remember, old folks are worth a fortune — with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs." And the physical limitations of aging do not go unnoticed. Jim Connolly, a design engineer, remembers one woman who would doze off at her workbench. And, he said, "you get the occasional oddball who makes you a little nervous."

Because the factory is housed in what was once a second-floor movie theater, "the stairs are a bone of contention," Mr. Hartman said. Although no previous experience in the field is necessary, applicants must be able to make it up the steps.

The aging building that houses the business has no loading dock — it did not even have hot water until the late 80's. It is also cramped for space; the former theater stage is packed with yards of steel tubing. But moving to another site would mean losing employees; many walk or take a short ride to work. Last year, the company, which had been renting its space, bought the whole building. "We're in it for the long haul," Mr. Hartman said.

Not Ready for Medicare

By JULIA LAWLOR

WITH nothing to protect her but a vial of heart medicine, Ruth Kain spent the last year and a half willing herself to stay well. Then, a week before Thanksgiving, she felt a crushing pain in her chest, jaw and left arm so severe that it took her breath away. She was taken to the hospital, where doctors discovered a major blockage in an artery.

Mrs. Kain, 64, of Ava, Mo., is one of millions of Americans aged 55 to 64 who find it difficult — or impossible — to obtain health insurance. While her pain has gone away, for now at least, her worries have not. Since her husband's retirement and the expiration of his employer-sponsored health insurance in 1995, Mrs. Kain has been unable to find coverage for her heart condition.

She estimates that her hospital stay last month will cost her \$30,000, in addition to an \$8,000 bill from last January when she had a pacemaker placed in her chest. Until she turns 65 next September and becomes eligible for Medicare, every penny must be paid out of her pocket.

"I have 10 more months of sitting on pins and needles, waiting and praying that nothing else happens to my heart," she said. "If it does, we'll have to mortgage our house. I have to stay healthy. That's all there is to it."

After focusing its efforts on getting coverage for millions of uninsured children, the White House is now turning its attention to the group of people typified by Mrs. Kain. Too young for Medicare, yet old enough to be forced into early retirement or pushed out the door in corporate downsizings, three million Americans between 55 and 65 now have no health insurance coverage, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington.

And this is the fastest-growing age group of the American population, now at 21.5 million but expected to increase to 30 million by 2005 as baby boomers approach retirement age, the institute said. Recent research has shown that people in this group are losing health benefits at a faster

rate than any other group, except children.

In some cases, this is because pre-existing health conditions disqualify them from some insurance plans. In others, insurance companies view them as high risks and charge more than they can afford. In still other instances, early retirees lose coverage when their former employers cancel retiree health benefits to cut costs.

In any case, the loss of coverage can mean disaster for people like Mrs. Kain. The cruel fact is that "people tend to get sicker when they get older," noted Richard Coors, a spokesman for the Health Insurance Association of America, which represents 250 of the nation's for-profit health insurance carriers.

According to Paul Fronstin, an economist at the Employee Benefit Research Institute, a majority of people in the 55-to-64 age group are working; it is those who have retired who are more likely to lack insurance.

And women have a greater chance than men of being uninsured, Mr. Fronstin said. In part, that is because they are more apt to have jobs that do not offer health insurance. Others have been carried on their husbands' policies, so after their husbands die, they are often left without coverage.

Mrs. Kain was a homemaker raising four children and working only occasional odd jobs during the 37 years that her husband, Rufus, was a maintenance worker for Louisiana Pacific. After she had heart bypass surgery at 38, she remained in relatively good health.

But the surgery came back to haunt her when she went shopping for health insurance after her husband's retirement. No company would insure her for anything related to her heart or circulatory system. So Mrs. Kain ended up buying a policy for \$227 a month that excluded her pre-existing conditions. The Kains own their own home and have Mr. Kain's pension, so they are not eligible for Medicaid, the health program for the poor and disabled. Mr. Kain, however, is covered under Medicare.

In 1996, 13.9 percent of people aged

55 to 64 were uninsured, compared with 32.8 percent of 21- to 24-year-olds and 22.5 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

Some public policy experts argue that the numbers indicate that the health insurance woes of the near elderly are getting more attention than they deserve. David Helms, president of the Alpha Center, a nonprofit health policy center in Washington, said: "To me the most deserving group is low-income workers of all ages who aren't getting coverage through their employer. Many 55- to 64-year-olds are not low-income. We should be focusing where the need is greatest."

Others, however, say the near elderly end up suffering the most. Ronald F. Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a health care advocacy group, said, "This is the group that winds up having the most harmful consequences when they are uninsured."

Many older people have chronic health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer that are costly to treat. "When you're an uninsured adult, there is a very high likelihood that you will defer the care you need," Mr. Pollack said. "Sometimes, once you go to get help, it's too late."

THE problem could grow worse.

While people are tending to retire at younger and younger ages — today, the average retirement age is 62, and even lower at large companies — a bipartisan Medicare commission is considering the option of phasing in an increase in the eligibility age for Medicare, to 67 from 65. Such a move would put even more people at risk of going uninsured, said John Rother, legislative director for the American Association of Retired Persons.

Once they are pressed into retirement or are laid off, many older workers have difficulty finding other jobs that offer health insurance coverage. Those who become self-employed can try to buy coverage on their own. Others take what they can get.

OLDER workers, of course, can be more resistant to something new. "Change isn't always easy when you have a labor force that is advanced in years," Mr. Hartman said. Mary Bianchi, 76, the office manager, threatened to quit when he replaced her typewriter with a word processor. There were arguments over the addition of the fax machine ("No one thought it would work"), the air-conditioner, even the microwave. "I still think a third of our people won't go next to it," Mr. Hartman said.

On the other hand, the company has remade itself in recent years. In the 1980's, the spread of AIDS caused a huge shift toward the use of disposable needles, making obsolete the reusable medical needles that were Vita's specialty.

To reinvent itself, Vita found other uses for its type of product — developing tubes for embalming, tagging salmon, vaccinating wild animals and injecting foam into car seats. One customer, Sea World, contracts with Vita for 4-foot-long needles used to medicate killer whales.

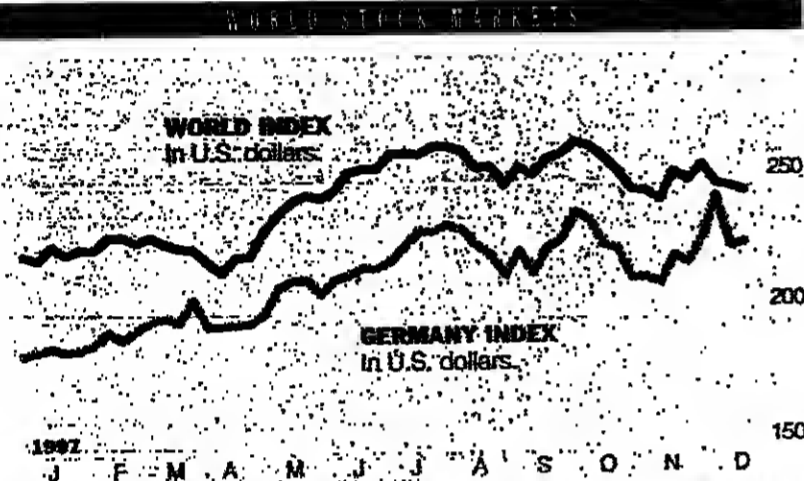
The workers, many of them widows, hardly blush when discussing the special needles for piercing navels, noses, tongues and, um, other body parts. "We're kind of a player in that market," Mr. Hartman said, with slight embarrassment.

BY adapting to new manufacturing procedures, the staff has proved itself as versatile as the products. Mr. Ferson used his 30 years of experience in a machine shop to create a gauge that allows him to work with tubing the size of a human hair.

With its new customer base, the company has grown to 35 employees, from 15 in 1984. Sales have doubled in the last five years, and are expected to grow 15 to 20 percent this year.

More change is on the way. Although Ms. Bianchi, the office manager, keeps the company paperwork in files on a shelf behind her desk, computerization is in the works. As he helped her pull down a box, Mr. Hartman, 31 years her junior, joked about when she would retire.

"You're here until three figures, Mary, three figures," he said. She smiled and said, "You'll have to put the elevator in for me." □



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.	
Australia	196.70	1.4	7	-11.4	19	3.81	199.28	7.2
Austria	186.69	1.1	9	-1.7	18	1.93	172.05	13.2
Belgium	251.69	-4.1	25	10.5	13	3.03	227.23	27.4
Brazil	227.81	7.1	1	20.1	7	1.90	467.46	28.9
Britain	329.01	-0.0	12	16.2	11	3.37	292.09	19.1
Canada	206.50	-0.4	16	8.8	15	1.84	214.62	13.9
Denmark	442.37	2.2	2	25.7	5	1.26	406.33	43.9
Finland	274.45	2.1	4	11.7	12	2.03	309.30	30.2
France	233.30	1.5	6	9.0	14	2.45	217.07	24.3
Germany	226.89	0.7	11	19.4	8	1.41	209.06	37.3
Hong Kong	342.47	-0.6	17	-32.5	23	4.69	340.71	-32.3
Indonesia	67.21	-0.1	13	-70.5	28	3.08	218.51	-33.9
Ireland	388.13	-1.3	21	18.0	10	2.61	378.62	38.3
Italy	115.40	2.1	3	38.2	3	1.63	149.83	58.0
Japan	92.46	-2.8	23	-28.4	22	1.04	76.08	-19.7
Malaysia	158.63	-4.2	26	-73.7	27	3.10	234.92	-60.0
Mexico	1,721.35	1.9	5	41.1	1	1.59	15,328.20	46.0
Netherlands	400.15	-0.1	14	19.0	9	2.30	364.77	37.4
New Zealand	73.29	-4.3	27	-20.1	21	4.63	66.70	-3.3
Norway	311.81	-0.9	19	5.5	17	1.98	308.52	20.4
Philippines	78.39	-2.2	22	-61.5	25	1.35	156.07	-41.5
Singapore	226.04	-3.5	24	-46.2	24	1.84	174.11	-35.7
South Africa	263.08	1.3	8	-17.4	20	3.08	279.43	-14.2
Spain	268.03	-0.2	15	21.9	6	2.26	304.97	40.8
Sweden	456.47	-0.8	18	8.2	16	1.98	524.36	23.0
Switzerland	334.24	0.7	10	40.1	2	1.13	297.19	49.6
Thailand	18.54	-15.6	28	-80.6	28	8.45	34.03	-64.3
United States	382.42	-1.0	20	26.7	4	1.62	382.42	26.7

COMPOSITE INDICES						
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.		
Europe	284.73	0.3	18.8	2.42	265.75	30.0
Pacific Basin	102.80	-2.3	-30.9	1.73	85.52	-21.9
Europe/Pacific	178.67	-0.6	-4.2	2.19	153.28	5.5
World	246.71	-0.8	10.0	1.89	224.09	15.4

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES				
Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	130.41	128.93	+1.15	115.30
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.7725	1.7753	-1.57	1.5533
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4355	1.4318	+0.26	1.3678
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6770	1.6881	+0.54	1.6920

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

Dec. 22-26: Still in Asia's Shadow, the Dow Falls a Bit and a Year-End Rally Seems Unlikely

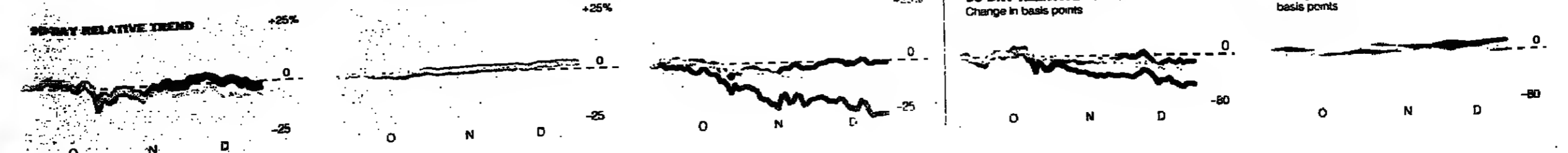
PRICES	
DOMESTIC EQUITIES	
Broad market S. & P. 500 index	Down 1.09% 936.48
Blue chips Dow 50 industrials	Down 0.99% 7,679.31
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	Up 0.35% 421.49

DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries Ryan Labs. Total Return	Down 0.00% 213.40
Municipals Bond Buyer index	Down 0.10% 123.97
Corporates Merrill Lynch Master index	Down 0.11% 935.56

AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks F.T.-Actuaries Europe	Up 0.31% 284.73
Asian stocks F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	Down 2.34% 102.80
Gold New York cash price	Up 1.75% \$296.20

YIELDS	
Long bonds 30-year Treasuries	5.90% Down 2 basis pts.
Notes 2-year Treasuries	5.66% Up 2 basis pts.
Municipals Bond Buyer index	5.23% Unchanged

OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds Taxable average	5.13% Up 3 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s 1-year small savers	5.18% Unchanged
Stocks S. & P. 500 dividend yield	1.67% Up 3 h.p.



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datastream, Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

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The Seinfeldian Universe

America, for better or worse, is a place where a television sitcom can become a cultural and commercial benchmark. "Seinfeld" managed to reach that status in a nine-year run, often atop the prime-time ratings. As the idiosyncratic show heads toward sunset, its improbable success says something about the state of entertainment in America.

For one thing, it demonstrates the power of one popular show to reorder the universe of network television. Jerry Seinfeld and his talented supporting cast helped to catapult NBC from last to first place in ratings. The series generates more than \$200 million a year in profits for NBC. The show's ability to captivate viewers allowed the network to build nearly instant hits by placing new shows before or after "Seinfeld" in a Thursday-evening lineup that now includes two of television's other top-five programs, "Friends" and "E.R."

It is no wonder that John Welch, the chairman of General Electric, NBC's parent company, offered Mr. Seinfeld about \$5 million an episode, or roughly \$10 million, to keep the show running next year. Mr. Seinfeld said he would prefer to make a graceful exit. Though viewers have been loyal, television critics have noted a decline in the show's quality.

The mass appeal of "Seinfeld" — the show attracts 30 million viewers each week — suggests that Americans have a fondness for eccentric New Yorkers. The show's depiction of New York City as an amusing foreign culture helped give the city a more benign image even before the steep decline in crime. The New York of "Seinfeld" is filled with

college-educated, underemployed singles. This season, thanks in part to the influence and success of "Seinfeld," 20 prime-time network shows are set in New York City, a good many in a Seinfeld-like universe.

Some critics complain that the show appeals to a baby-boomer, 1990's sensibility — self-absorbed, neurotic and tolerant of moral weakness. Some of the quirky humor was hard to fathom. But much of the show obviously is funny to millions, perhaps because of the inane behavior and the surreal minutiae of life that "Seinfeld" chronicles occur to most people in their off moments. There is no moral dimension to the question of which car — the one pulling into a parking spot head first or the one going in tail first — has the greater right to the spot. But anyone who has tried to park somewhere other than at a shopping mall has probably pondered this issue. Some episodes about such absurdist miscellany as the male brassiere, the Soup Nazi and the love life of John Cheever have become national conversational references.

The show's place in American culture was evident when a middle manager at the Miller Brewing Company was fired in 1993 for sexual harassment because he recounted to a co-worker the plot of one episode. In it, Jerry forgets the name of a girlfriend, but knows it rhymes with a female body part. A jury last summer awarded the manager \$26 million in damages. It seemed to be a case of life imitating art. The beauty of "Seinfeld" was that art and life were often indistinguishable.

Mapping Crime Hot Spots

Making police commanders accountable for crime reduction may seem common-sensical, but it is not routine in most police departments around the country. The New York Police Department, which now operates under this principle, offers proof to other cities that it can be effective.

The strategy relies heavily on the use of computers to pinpoint hot spots of crime so that precinct commanders can respond quickly to squelch the outbreak. This approach is at least partially responsible for the city's dramatic decline in crime rates. Jack Maple, a deputy under former Police Commissioner William Bratton, developed the method and has spread word of its impact to other urban centers with daunting crime problems. In New Orleans and Newark, his tactics are getting impressive results, in part because they force officers out onto the streets. Birmingham, Ala., is another city looking at this approach.

Easy-to-use computers and inexpensive software make it possible for the police to create detailed daily maps showing when and where crime is occurring. Precinct commanders and their superiors can then deploy more officers to those areas. A rise in crime on a given street, which would be

hidden under aggregate statistics, is made plainly visible almost instantly. This transparency makes it easier to hold commanders accountable.

In New Orleans, Mr. Maple's maps made clear that officers had to be stationed at housing projects, where a huge proportion of the city's crime was committed. Since making that change, violent crime in New Orleans is down 22 percent from last year. Computer mapping is one reason Newark, which recently hired Mr. Maple, has reduced its crime rate by 13 percent from last year.

Hot-spot mapping is not the sole reason for safer streets in New York. Cracking down on low-level offenders, a shift in drug-trafficking patterns and stricter sentencing also have helped. Some criminologists fear that a high-accountability regime, marked by computer mapping, can create pressures that demoralize a police force. Another potential problem is that precinct supervisors may be tempted to underreport crimes. Those are serious concerns that require strong management. New York's record suggests that the hot-spot strategy can increase police accountability for positive results. Experience elsewhere appears to show that this approach can be successfully exported.

Trouble in Zambia

Zambia, one of the first African countries to hold multiparty elections in the early 1990's, now seems to be sliding back toward authoritarianism. A particularly worrisome development was the Christmas Day arrest of former President Kenneth Kaunda, the man who led Zambia to independence. The Government hopes to link Mr. Kaunda to a failed coup attempt last October, when he was out of the country. Under an emergency law that permits detention without charges or trial, Mr. Kaunda can be held for four weeks, during which his supporters fear he could be tortured or killed.

Mr. Kaunda was no liberal democrat during the 27 years he ruled Zambia. He stifled the press, jailed critics and permitted only one party. Protests forced him into free elections in 1991, which he lost to Frederick Chiluba, a trade union leader he had earlier jailed. Mr. Chiluba's promises of democracy and free markets excited broad hopes. But six years

later, his rule has turned increasingly arbitrary.

Before last year's election, he rewrote the Constitution to bar Mr. Kaunda and another opposition leader from running. The United States and other countries rightly responded by reducing their aid programs. Earlier this year, donor nations agreed to restore the cuts provided Zambia improved its performance on privatizing industry and combating corruption.

Then in October, a group of military officers staged a bungling coup attempt, which was easily suppressed. Since then, Mr. Chiluba has sharply stepped up his repression, jailing scores of political opponents. Mr. Kaunda may indeed have had some link to the coup. But that can only be determined by a fair trial. To fulfill its promises of economic freedom and governmental accountability, the Chiluba Government must return to the rule of law. Foreign donors should hold up their aid until it does.

The Shadows Winter Brings

The high ground in Columbia County has been covered with snow since mid-November. Every cold night the snow tenses, and every warm day it relaxes, sponging moisture into the still-unfrozen soil. In a pasture on one small farm, the horses have strewn a green carpet of hay underfoot, and a pair of crows feed at its edge. The snow has buried nearly everything in that pasture, but what it hasn't buried it has thrown into silhouette, denuding it of color. The tops of the tallest grasses and weeds protrude from the whiteoats, their shapes revealed with peculiar clarity. On sharp days when there has been light wind and a new inch or two, the weed stems cut a V in the snow. When the wind has been especially strong, the weed tops leave a distinctive print, a brush mark, on the surface.

Snow makes a minimalist of almost anyone who walks through the fields this time of year. An abandoned clearing that was full of color in August or June now displays the remnants of only a few plants, stiff, skeletal forms still bearing seed against the spring. The blankness of the background confers a kind of unaccustomed grandeur on some of the plants that still stand upright. Burdocks — most grasping, most contemptible of weeds —

spread like ancient oaks. Galls appear like minarets high on a clump of weed stalks. Goldenrods bend as though they were seaweed swayed by a light current. The ingenuity, the evolutionary virtuosity of botanical design, becomes apparent among the motherwort, a plant with carillon after carillon of empty, spiny bells surrounding its four-sided stalk.

In late December, the eye feels an almost painful hunger for light. The open woods, bereft of leaves, and the snow itself feel like a way of making amends for the almost grudging tread of the sun across the sky. It is that hunger that makes the detail of the natural world so precious now. Pale green lichen on a sodden tree trunk has all the power of a day lily in bloom. Where moss insulates a south-facing rock outcrop, a few ferns still remain May-green. It is tempting to think of winter as the oegation of life, but life has too many sequences, too many rhythms to be altogether quieted by snow and cold. Why are there still leaves on the maple boughs that snapped off in a big storm in the autumn? How does it happen that mildges hatch on a day just slightly warmer than the rest of the week? They rise from a brook and follow its course upstream, into the darkness of a conifer wood.

Political Truth Sent From Paris, Like Fashion

To the Editor:
Tony Judt's "Longest Road to Hell" (Op-Ed, Dec. 22) is as valuable as it is thoughtful in conveying the significance of the French publication of a book on the crimes of Communist regimes.

But a half-century earlier, the same comparisons of Communist to fascist totalitarianism were made by such European refugee intellectuals as Hannah Arendt and Franz Neumann while the Americans James Burnham, Max Eastman and Sidney Hook tried, with little success, to publicize the gulag slave labor camps and other atrocities.

Political truth seems to have the same status as haute couture: it wins recognition only when it comes from Paris. JOHN PATRICK DIGGINS
New York, Dec. 23, 1997

The writer is a professor of history at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Conceptual Vagueness

To the Editor:
Tony Judt is absolutely right to insist that we maintain distinctions between the types of political madness that have caused so many deaths in our century (Op-Ed, Dec. 22), but his attempt to differentiate Communism from Nazism and other forms of racial genocide enshrines some misconceptions.

First of all, the arbitrary categories of "kulak" and "bourgeois" did not allow for redefinition or re-education any more than did the category of Jew to the Nazis.

Their main difference from the racial categories of the Nazis was conceptual vagueness. But once the class determination was made, the only

hope for the victims lay in the relative sloppiness of Russian administrators compared with the discipline and efficiency of the Germans.

It is also not true that the Cambodian massacres had "more in common with the horrors of Rwanda and Bosnia" than with Stalin's purges. Pol Pot's violent liquidation of Cambodia's middle and upper classes was fueled not by racial or ethnic hatred but by utopian Communism and his vision of a perfectible state — a vision, incidentally, that he acquired in Paris. MICHAEL SCAMMELL
New York, Dec. 23, 1997

Blame Man, Not Beliefs

To the Editor:

As Tony Judt points out (Op-Ed, Dec. 22), we in the West have known of the atrocities committed in the name of Communism for many years. But that he and the authors of "Le Livre Noir du Communisme" have taken the "Communist" regimes in the Soviet Union and China as valid examples of applied Communism is ludicrous in a way that is not dissimilar for condemning "capitalism" as essentially evil because of its extreme applications (for example, slavery, expansion) or "Christianity" because of the Crusades.

It is not the fault of any system when the spirit of human goodness falters. It is ultimately the fault of people. Just as slavery is an extension of the concept of property gone horribly wrong, so too was Stalinism a bastardization of Communism.

It is all too easy to blame a concept. It is far more difficult to blame a man. ROBERT MARKO
New York, Dec. 22, 1997

A World of Difference at Ends of Shuttle

To the Editor:
It is not very difficult to determine which end of the New York City-Washington, D.C., shuttle one is on ("Sorry, Wrong Conversation," Styles, Dec. 22).

Twice a week, for the past five years, I have traveled to Washington to have dinner with my husband, now the Treasury Secretary, taking a late rush-hour shuttle down and an early rush-hour one back up the next morning.

One evening a few years ago my husband and I were dining alone in a popular D.C. restaurant. I was full of enthusiasm for "Angels in America," a major theatrical event in New York, on its way to a Tony, a Pulitzer and a production of Part II. He had never heard of it and made me a wager that neither had anyone we would say hello to on our way out. He was right — five or six people looked blank. The next morning I stopped at his office on the way to the airport and continued the plot.

Same results — until I saw a glimmer of recognition in the eyes of a senior staffer: "Yep! It's an interest



group!" Then, with a regretful shake of the head: "No, I'm wrong."

There was no question that I was on the southern end of the shuttle route, in our nation's capital — and I had lost the bet. JUDITH O. RUBIN
New York, Dec. 24, 1997

The writer is chairman of the board of Playwrights Horizons.

'Creation Science' Is Throwback to Dark Ages

To the Editor:
That there is even a debate about the validity of so-called creation science in the United States this close to the 21st century is a testament to the growing powers of religious fundamentalism and the lack of proper science education in this country (Week in Review, Dec. 21).

Real science works by making theories based on evidence, and then testing those theories. Creation "science" works by using long-winded, pseudoscientific verbal gymnastics in order to justify a narrow and unimaginative interpretation of the first few books of Genesis.

How can one tell real science from pseudoscience? Just look at which method understands why diseases and insects become resistant to antibiotics and pesticides; why animals and humans have vestigial limbs and organs, and why so many species went extinct millions of years ago.

Creation "science" is a throwback to the Dark Ages, when anti-scientific religious zealots persecuted scientists when the scientists' observations didn't conform to the dogma of the day.

What if the rest of the world passes us by while we wrestle with superstition? STEPHEN CUMBERIDGE
State College, Pa., Dec. 22, 1997

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 21 Week in Review article missed a crucial point on the issue of the theory of evolution versus the new creationism. These are not comparable because creationism does not meet the criteria of scientific theories, while evolution does.

In a decision in January 1982 overturning an Arkansas law requiring the teaching of creationism in the public schools, Federal District Judge William Overton of Little Rock described some of the essential characteristics of science: "It is testable against the empirical world; its conclusions are tentative, i.e., are not necessarily the final

word; and it is falsifiable. Creation science fails to meet these essential characteristics."

In 1987, in a similar decision, the Supreme Court ruled 7-to-2 that state laws requiring equal teaching of evolution and creation science are illegal because creationism is a religious belief and not a scientific study. ESTHER B. SPARBERG
Hempstead, N.Y., Dec. 22, 1997

The writer is professor emeritus of chemistry at Hofstra U.

To the Editor:

Edward Morgan makes a spurious assumption in "God's Place at a Rescue Mission" (Op-Ed, Dec. 25) when he says the Bill of Rights "includes the freedom of religion, not the freedom from religion."

The First Amendment says simply that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

I do not know Mr. Morgan but, based on his credentials as head of the Bowery Mission, I should probably have great respect for him. But as a humanist, I reject his insistence that religion must be part of his good deeds.

Mr. Morgan likes to think "that our newest, city-financed shelter is a model of how government and faith can work together for success without becoming one." I agree with this precept — but is "faith" necessarily the kind of religious faith he embraces? GEORGE MEREDITH
Red Bank, N.J., Dec. 25, 1997

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A Lesson in Democracy

To the Editor:

Re "The Longest Road to Hell" (Op-Ed, Dec. 22): One could say, in favor of Communism, that the Communists took over an illiterate, impoverished country devastated by war (Russia) and built it into a world power, whereas the Nazis took over an advanced, literate country (Germany) and degraded it into a charnel house and finally a bombed-out ruin.

But the main lesson we may learn from the sorry histories of these two ideologies is the importance of maintaining a democratic system and a Bill of Rights to curb excesses of government power. RICHARD EMMS
Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 23, 1997

The writer is vice chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union's Central Ohio chapter.

Fascism's Human Face

To the Editor:

Tony Judt (Op-Ed, Dec. 22) finds many similarities between Communism and Nazism and only a few differences worth mentioning. I would like to make one addition to his short list of differences. Throughout its existence, the Communist system generated its most forceful critics from within its own ranks, many of whom based their critiques on the founding premises of the movement. I can't, however, think of any former Nazis who ever took the Third Reich to task for failing to create a fascism with a human face. MAURICE ISSERMAN
Clinton, N.Y., Dec. 23, 1997

The writer is a professor of history, Hamilton College.

Both Sacrificed Liberty

To the Editor:

Tony Judt (Op-Ed, Dec. 22) rightly concludes that "Communism and Nazism are, and always were, morally indistinguishable." Under both regimes, government officials terrorized and murdered tens of millions of innocent people. Yet Mr. Judt also concludes that because Communists murdered to accomplish some "arbitrary objective," they are distinguishable from Nazis, whose sole purpose was "extermination."

This distinction is false. Nazis killed Jews (and others) to create an ethnically purer society. Stalin and Mao killed kulaks, merchants and intellectuals to create a purer proletarian society. There is no "crucial analytical contrast" between these regimes. They were all horrific examples of what happens when individual liberty is sacrificed on the pernicious altar of the greater good. KAROL CEPLO
Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y.
Dec. 22, 1997

No Excuse for 'Lapses'

To the Editor:

How ironic is the juxtaposition of Tony Judt's devastating commentary of the crimes of Communism in this century (Op-Ed Dec. 22) with the statements of Representative Lamar S. Smith, justifying the unchecked power now granted to immigration officials by the state (Anthony Lewis's column of the same day). Mr. Smith states that "when you have hundreds of millions of entries every year, and you have human nature involved, there are inevitably going to be some lapses." Shouldn't the imposition of safeguards to prevent these "lapses" from occurring be the first order of business for a government of laws? TERENCE MCGINTY
Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 22, 1997

U.S. Is No Different

To the Editor:

Tony Judt concludes his Dec. 22 Op-Ed article with an analytical contrast between Communism and Nazism: "There is a difference between regimes that exterminate people in the inhuman pursuit of an arbitrary objective and those whose objective is extermination itself." That is a pretty frail distinction, since arbitrary objectives are so easy to create, but the real danger is falling into the trap of failing to see how the United States has also engaged in the extermination of people in the inhuman pursuit of an arbitrary objective. Vietnam is but one example. THOMAS R. MILLER
Oakland, Calif., Dec. 22, 1997

Slavery's Opponents

To the Editor:

Re "Amistad" Makes a Good Classroom Tool" (Letters, Dec. 26): Commentators have correctly pointed out that John Quincy Adams was indifferent to the slavery issue until late in his life. While "Amistad" is a well-made film, President Martin Van Buren is portrayed in it as both indifferent and cynical; but in later life he, too, underwent a conversion. Nine years after the Amistad case, Van Buren was the Presidential candidate of the Free Soil party, the first serious party opposed to the extension of slavery, and his running mate was Charles Francis Adams, the son of John Quincy Adams.

It might be added that the depiction of Van Buren campaigning for reelection is erroneous. In those days candidates for the Presidency did not run for the White House. Van Buren himself said: "The people will never make a man President who is so importunate as to show by his life and conversation that he not only has an eye on, but is in active pursuit of the office." ARTHUR SCHLESINGER JR.
New York, Dec. 26, 1997

100 Years Of Being Really Big

By Kenneth T. Jackson

A century ago, New Yorkers celebrated New Year's Eve with special exuberance. Dec. 31, 1897, was filled with speeches, parades, fireworks, brass bands, and the reading of a commissioned "Ode to Greater New York." At midnight, illuminated by the glow of 500 magnesium lights, thousands of people gathered in front of City Hall (there was as yet no Times Square and no descending ball) to sing "Auld Lang Syne" and watch the raising of the city's new flag.

Five counties and 40 municipalities were now one enormous metropolis. New York's population instantly jumped to 3.4 million from 2 million, making it the second-largest city in the world, trailing only London. And by absorbing Brooklyn as well as remote outlying villages like Jamaica, Douglaston and Flushing in Queens and Tottenville, Stapleton and Great Kills on Staten Island, the city expanded to 300 square miles from 44.

The consolidation of the five boroughs, coming 272 years after Dutch colonists gave birth to the city, was the brainchild of Andrew Haswell Green, the president of the Central Park Commission, who in 1868 had proposed uniting under one municipal roof all the territory that today comprises the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens (a portion of which was withheld — it would soon become Nassau County) and Staten Island.

The final push for consolidation came from a Republican governor and Republican state

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legislators, who evidently hoped that the addition of middle-class voters from outlying districts would dilute the influence of Tammany Hall, Manhattan's powerful Democratic organization.

Considering the magnitude of the issue, it generated surprisingly little debate, although individual communities reacted differently to consolidation. Some parts of the Bronx, like Kingsbridge, Morrisania and West Farms, had joined the city as early as 1874. The rest of the borough, however, lagged 21 years behind.

Brooklynites were especially reluctant. They feared, justifiably, that their proud community, at the time the nation's fourth-largest city, would be overwhelmed by its more powerful neighbor and that consolidation would change the Protestant character of Brooklyn's neighborhoods. In a non-binding referendum held in 1894, Brooklynites voted to join Manhattan by the slimmest of margins — 65,744 to 65,467. The victory was secured only because Brooklyn was strapped fiscally and needed tax revenue from Manhattan to pay for schools, roads, water mains and sewers.

Had New York City remained as Manhattan alone, its population would have peaked at 2.3 million in 1910, leaving the city second in size to Chicago. Had Manhattan added only the Bronx, the city's population would never have reached 3.4 million — Chicago still would have surpassed it in population eventually.

But consolidation gave Gotham vast new spaces, and its population continued to soar. From 1900 to 1930 both Queens and the Bronx grew sixfold, and Brooklyn more than doubled. By 1930, New York had almost seven million inhabitants and had overtaken London as the world's largest city.

Without consolidation, the other boroughs might have become important cities in their own right. In 1997, Brooklyn has about as many inhabitants as Chicago, Queens more than Philadelphia, the Bronx more than Detroit and Staten Island more than St. Louis.

Not that New York was unique in its territorial expansion. Almost every major American city expanded its boundaries after 1850. And in the 20th century, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, Jacksonville, Oklahoma City, Memphis, Phoenix, Indianapolis and San Diego have all annexed space;

all are now bigger in area than New York and have had proportionately larger population increases. (The growth of New York, of course, did not stop at the city border — the entire region has grown tremendously. Now, 63 percent of the 20 million people in the metropolitan region live outside the city.)

What is unusual about New York is that its transformation has been consistent with its own past and different from that of other American cities. In at least 10 ways, the metropolis remains distinct in ways exaggerated, not diminished, by the passing of 100 years.

Tempo. New Yorkers walk faster, work longer, eat later and compete harder than most other Americans.

These behavioral patterns have deep roots. In 1626, when the Dutch set up a permanent trading post on Manhattan, their goal was not to convert the Indians or to achieve religious freedom, but to make money.

Visiting Manhattan in 1774 from Puritan Boston, John Adams complained, "I have not seen one real gentleman, one well-bred man, since I came to town." New Yorkers, he added, "talk very loud, very fast, and altogether."

"If they ask you a question," Adams continued, "before you can utter three words of your answer, they will break out on you again and talk away."

How New York became 'The City.'

Poor breeding? Perhaps. But New Yorkers established the first Chamber of Commerce in the Western Hemisphere in 1768, developed the concept of regularly scheduled shipping service in 1818, built the Erie Canal by 1825 and established the nation's dominant stock exchange by the 1840's.

Diversity. In recent decades, every important city has become multicultural, multiracial and multireligious. But New York has never been anything else. As early as the 1640's, 18 different languages were already being spoken in colonial New Amsterdam, whose population was still less than a thousand.

Ever since, New York has been the most polyglot place on earth. By 1880, when the city had the world's largest immigrant labor force, tourists might walk for blocks without hearing, or seeing, a word of English. As Jacob Riis noted in his 1890 classic, "How the Other Half Lives," "A map of the city, colored to designate nationalities, would show more stripes than on the skin of a zebra, and more colors than any rainbow."

In 1947, when New York became the headquarters of the

United Nations, it was already a United Nations in miniature. Fifty years have not changed this. In 1997, more than 11 of every 20 New Yorkers are immigrants or the children of immigrants. The metropolitan region has more Brazilians than any similar area outside South America, more Greeks than any city outside Greece, more Chinese than any city outside Asia, and more Jews, Puerto Ricans and Dominicans than any city anywhere.

Tolerance. Despite tragic ethnically charged incidents in Howard Beach, Crown Heights and other neighborhoods, most New Yorkers have learned to control their prejudices.

Again, the Dutch set the standard. In the early 17th century, even as Anne Hutchinson was being kicked out of Boston because of minor religious differences, the West India Company was welcoming Lutherans, Quakers, Anabaptists, Catholics and Jews to Manhattan.

New York has always been a haven for outcasts, sinners, revolutionaries, anarchists and dissidents. Can it be mere coincidence that the American Communist Party, the N.A.A.C.P. and the gay rights movement all got started in the city? Or that Pakistanis and Indians, Arabs and Jews, Bosnians and Serbs, and Irish Protestants and Catholics manage, for the most part, to coexist in New York in peace?

Density. Compared with other American cities, New York has always been crowded. The first Dutch settlers huddled together below Wall Street. A century ago, the average population density on the Lower East Side exceeded 260,000 per square mile, and in certain precincts it reached 600,000 per square mile, a total never matched at any other time or in any other place.

Today, New York still stands apart. The population density of San Francisco is 16,000 per square mile; in Chicago the number is 12,000, and in Los Angeles it is 7,500. The density figure for the five boroughs is 25,000 per square mile, and for Manhattan it is 65,000 per square mile.

As a rule, Americans have been fleeing from the inner city. Since 1950, the population of Chicago proper has dropped 25 percent, Baltimore 28 percent, Philadelphia 29 percent, Washington 32 percent, Cleveland 43 percent, Pittsburgh 45 percent, Detroit 46 percent and St. Louis 54 percent.

New York and San Francisco are the exceptions. The population of each is down only about 5 percent from its peak and has grown for the past 15 years. Houston, San Diego, Phoenix, San Antonio, Dallas and many other cities have made huge gains recently, but they have done so by annexing surrounding territory, and their population density has declined substantially since World War II.

What makes New York exceptional is that even as many have left the city, others have always been ready to take their place.

Public transportation. A century ago, the United States had the best and most extensive public transit system in the world. Since then, in city after city, Americans have ripped up their streetcar tracks, starved their bus systems and built superhighways.

New York is the exception. Its proportion of the nation's transit riders has doubled in the 20th century, and its subways, buses and commuter trains are used by more people today than a quarter century ago.

Vibrant central business district. Busting department stores, once the signature institution of every city, are now only memories in many places, thanks to the urban exodus of the last 50 years, which has given us subdivisions, shopping malls, office parks and high-water strip developments but has left American downtowns desolate and forlorn, especially after dark.

New York again is an exception. Despite the loss of Gimbels, B. Altman and Bonwit Teller, the sidewalks of midtown Manhattan remain crowded, and grand emporiums like Macy's, Lord & Taylor, Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Brooks Brothers, Bergdorf Goodman and a dozen others continue to enchant window shoppers as no mall ever could.

A substantial middle and upper class. In most North American cities, the rich live on the edges and the poor reside in the middle. New Yorkers, to be sure, started this trend. They pioneered the suburban movement in Brooklyn Heights and later in Westchester County, Long Island and New Jersey.

But the middle class has never really abandoned the center of New York. Neighborhoods throughout the city include the kinds of people who elsewhere would be firmly ensconced in the suburbs. The affluent are conspicuous, too, so

much so that Manhattan is the richest county in the nation per capita, the wealthiest ZIP code in America is Manhattan's 10021, and the highest residential real estate values in the United States are along Fifth Avenue, Park Avenue and Central Park West.

A sustainable environment. The idea of pristine nature and of clean air and water conjures up images of wood-burning Vermonters, not cliff dwellers in Manhattan. But New Yorkers also tread lightly on the land. They use fewer fossil fuels to get from place to place and to heat and cool their residences. By any measure, apartments are more energy efficient than houses, just as walking and using public transit are more efficient than moving a ton and a half of metal to make a trip in the grocery store.

Public housing. Today, public housing, especially of the high-rise variety, is generally considered a failure in the United States. Thousands of units have been abandoned because even the poor refuse to live in such miserable environments. As a result, cities across the nation have razed entire complexes. But not in New York, where tens of thousands

of families are on the waiting list and many of the public housing complexes are in remarkably good order, despite major cuts in Federal subsidies in the last 15 years.

Safety. The scary image of New York, fed by movies and television, causes newcomers to feel a twinge of fear when they venture out. Actually, New York has seldom been among the nation's most dangerous cities. In part, this is the result of a homicide rate that only rarely has been in the nation's top 10 and that recently has plunged so low that Gotham no longer ranks in the top 100 most violent American cities.

But the unusual freedom from sudden death that New Yorkers enjoy is related to the transportation system and population density, not crime.

Quite simply, most New Yorkers are less likely to die prematurely than other Americans because of a low automobile fatality rate.

In other parts of the country, automobiles are required for virtually all journeys. But New Yorkers walk to many destinations. Short trips are the norm. By reducing distance traveled, New Yorkers remain out of the street and thus out of harm's way.

These 10 characteristics have contributed to New York's status as a unique metropolis. Although many consider it out of date and out of touch, in truth it should be a model for other American cities.

New York City has intractable problems. Since 1980, the incomes of the poor have fallen dramatically, even as public sympathy for the plight of poor people has eroded. And the gap between rich and poor is higher in New York than anywhere else.

New York's public schools, once the pride of the city, have in all too many cases become dangerous or dysfunctional. The water system, long the finest in the world, is leaking beneath the streets and in need of major investment. Bridges are rusting dangerously, and New Yorkers often navigate streets that would be an embarrassment to a developing nation. The port, once the busiest in the world, is silted up and losing market share. There were a million factory jobs in 1954; now there are fewer than 200,000.

Nonetheless, over the last 372 years, New York City has shown remarkable resilience and a capacity for change and renewal. Since 1945, for example, it has led the nation into a new service-oriented economy. Meanwhile, its high population density, its reputation for tolerance and acceptance, its concentrated wealth and its striking heterogeneity — in short, its urbanity — have made it the artistic and cultural citadel of the age.

No other place can so convincingly claim to be the capital of capitalism, the capital of the 20th century and the capital of the world. As John Steinbeck said: "It is an ugly city, a dirty city, its climate is a scandal. Its politics are used to frighten children. Its traffic is madness. Its competition is murderous. But there is one thing about it — once you have lived in New York and it has become your home, no other place is good enough." □

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Office Pool, 1998

WASHINGTON

Within each question, you're allowed the choice of one, none or all.

1. Most startling intelligence coup: (a) neo-Angletonian Waldemar Skotzko finds Primakov's mole; (b) U.N. inspectors learn that Saddam's cache of anthrax spores has been moved outside Iraq; (c) Castro's Cuban intelligence, voted "best network in the U.S." by world spookery, switches allegiance from Russia to China.

2. Hottest new-book buzz among the cognoscenti will be about (a) Syracuse U. Prof. Mary Karr's "Viper Rum" poems; (b) Peggy Noonan's golden-voiced oratorical advice to a tongue-tied generation, "Simply Speaking"; (c) Restaurateur George Lang's "Nobody Knows the Truffles I've Seen"; (d) Anna Quindlen's best novel, "Black and Blue."

3. The 1998 House Congressional elections: (a) upset Democratic victory makes Gephardt Speaker; (b) surge of 20 additional House seats for G.O.P. encourages Gingrich to run for President, and give up Speaker-ship, which Paxon snatches from Ar-mey.

4. In the 1998 Senate races, (a) Illinois Republicans choose moderate woman who then trounces Carol Mosely-Braun to attain filibuster-breaking majority of 60; (b) Democrats overcome retirements of Glenn, Ford and Bumpers to hold their 56-45 minority.

5. Oscars: (a) best picture and director to "Titanic"; (b) best screenplay and supporting actor to "Good Will Hunting"; (c) special award to Mia Farrow as "mother-in-law of the year."

6. In the Great Asian Shakeout, (a)

South Korean work ethic will undergo strong comeback; (b) Japan will forsake keiretsu and adopt American model; (c) the U.S. Congress will draw the line at jacking-up Jakarta; (d) Chinese rising underemployment will trigger unrest in cities; (e) Singa-

Riding the Year of the Tiger.

pore remains authoritarian and sinks. 7. In the U.S. economy, (a) the big new worry will be deflation, causing the Fed to lower interest rates; (b) nervous bulls will regroup, and with growth climbing to 4 percent, will run

the D.J. index over 9,000; (c) Chicken Little analysts will be right about the world shakeout and the sky will fall.

8. The show trial approaching O.J.'s in drama will be (a) Web Hubbell on a charge of taking Riady husband money; (b) Paula Jones against the President, the press corps and the feminists; (c) Reno's impeachment in the Senate; (d) Hillary's defense against perjury and obstruction of justice.

9. The competition between Clinton and the G.O.P. to distribute the "balanced budget dividend" will (a) flatten income-tax rates, with only two stages to stay simple and retain progressivity; (b) replace the income tax and payroll tax with a national sales tax, with rebates to the poor; (c) promote social policy with tax credits to companies that provide health care, day care and auto care.

10. As Saddam Hussein flouts U.N.

inspections, President Clinton, with multilateral approval, will (a) rule nothing in; (b) rule nothing out; (c) rule nothing.

11. Israeli-Arab agreement (a) will founder over Jerusalem; (b) will be built on Sharon's West Bank partition map and Syria's worry about a Turkish-Israeli squeeze; (c) will not come about until Clinton and Netanyahu face their "legacy spring" of 2000.

12. By year's end, the G.O.P. Presidential primary activists will be (a) rolled by the far-right infighting of John Ashcroft, Gary Bauer and Pat Buchanan; (b) surprised by the fundraising of newly popular Pete Wilson; (c) wondering if Dan Quayle's shrewd big-tentism will toss him right-to-lifers; (d) impressed by Lamar Alexander's relentless Iowa campaign; (e) putting money on George Bush; (f) putting Steve Forbes's money on

them; (g) furious at John McCain's campaign-finance compromise.

13. Top prosecutor: (a) Mary Jo White, shaking up the A.F.L.-C.I.O. leadership; (b) Robert Morgenthau, appointed campaign-scandal Indy Counsel; (c) David Barrett, following the Cisneros case into the Justice Department; (d) Donald Smaltz, bringing Tyson's chickens home to roost; (e) Hickman Ewing, if he can get nail-biting Ken Starr to take the plunge.

14. As Yeltsin torters, the seven criminal oligarchs choose (a) Moscow Mayor Luzhkov and General Lebed, salable and buyable; (b) Chernomyrdin and Chubais, steadfast and corruptible; (c) Nemtsov and Yavlinsky, reformist and West-oriented.

My choices: 1-c, 2-alt, 3-b, 4-a, 5-b, 6-all, 7-b, 8-b, 9-c, 10-b, 11-c, 12-all, 13-e, 14-c. In a good year, I get three right. □

House calls around the globe

Dr. Jakov Adler, the highest-ranking Israeli professional in the UN, winds up his term this week. Marilyn Henry speaks to the man who dispatches medical missions to trouble spots around the world

Dr. Jakov Adler has been making house calls around the globe for the last two years, taking care of a multinational army that has been dispatched to some of the most troubled spots around the world. This week, though, Adler, 65, will pack his bags and head back to Jerusalem as he completes his two-year term as chief of the United Nations peacekeeping medical unit. He is the highest-ranking of the handful of Israeli professionals working at the UN. "I have been accepted here very warmly. Being an Israeli has nothing to do with my acceptance here," Adler says in an interview in his cubbyhole office on the 22nd floor of the UN Secretariat, which commands a stunning view of midtown Manhattan. "This is a professional department, and most of the people here are professionals. They have no political pressures on them."

It's also a small department with a substantial mission. With the assistance of only four doctors in New York, Adler has been responsible for ensuring the well-being of thousands of UN troops. His office provides field hospitals, certifies the medical equipment for UN contingents, ensures that the medical staffs in the field are up to the minimal standards, and supplies pharmaceuticals.

There are 15 UN peacekeeping missions around the world. Until recently, at the height of UN peacekeeping in Yugoslavia, there were almost 80,000 troops wearing the blue UN berets. Now, there are about 25,000 troops.

"It's still quite a large army," Adler says. Adler's office solicits UN member states to provide medical support to peacekeeping troops. Getting the right medical mix is a balance of political and professional considerations.

In drawing doctors from around the world, Adler confronts both cultural differences and disparities in medical skills. Health-care personnel from the West, as well as those from Pakistan and India who were trained on the "English model," have comparable levels of

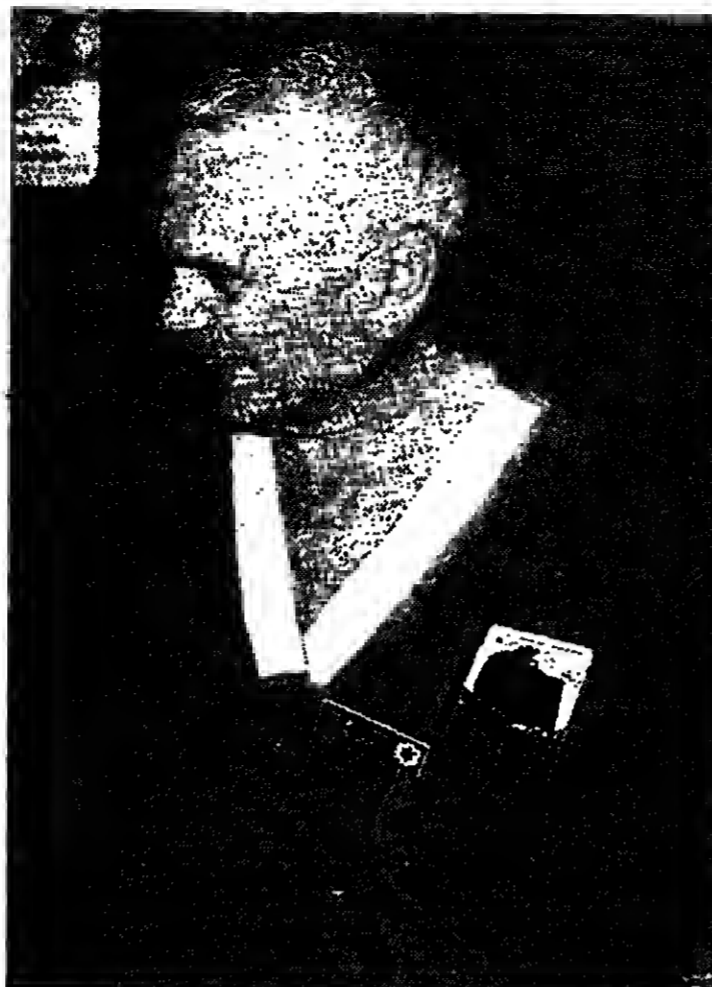
medical training and expertise in advanced procedures. There are problems, though, with doctors from Asia or Eastern Europe. The easterners don't have the advanced medical knowledge of their counterparts of the West, while the Asians are hampered by language difficulties. The peacekeepers, for example, have a good medical unit from Korea, but there have been difficulties because the doctors are not fluent in English or French. "A lot of misunderstandings occur because of language problems and different cultures," says the multilingual Adler.

When the UN appeals to states to provide medical services, Adler aims at countries with previous peacekeeping experience. Has he ever rejected a country's offer to help? "We have never said no to a certain country, but we have preferred a certain country," he says diplomatically, adding, "but of course there also are political considerations in whether they provide support or not."

In the last two years Adler has visited about half of the peacekeeping missions, including the sites in Bosnia, Tajikistan, Rwanda, the Western Sahara, Liberia and Angola. It was in Angola that he got UN field experience. "I replaced the chief medical officer for two weeks," Adler says. "We had to send him home. He was not qualified enough."

Each UN crew faces different medical problems. Malaria is the most dangerous disease in sub-Saharan Africa; in Tajikistan, there have been cases of rabies. With a global mission, Adler has witnessed the recurrence of old diseases. "Tuberculosis is spreading all over. Today, about 2 million people die of tuberculosis annually," he says.

The peacekeepers also have a problem with AIDS. "The troops are exposed to AIDS in their home countries and wherever they go," Adler says. "We have to provide information on how to protect themselves from AIDS and how not to infect people if they do have AIDS." The primary medical concern for UN troops, though, is not disease or battle-related casualties.



In Angola, Adler saw a crowd run after a teenage boy, then stone him to death. Adler told his driver to stop and intervene. "He said, 'Are you crazy? They'll kill us as well.'"

"The main problem is injuries and deaths in vehicle accidents," says Adler. "In these countries, the infrastructure has been destroyed, the roads are poor and narrow. When people walk on the roads at night, you can't see them. The drivers are driving like crazy, and trucks rush through without lights." And, he adds, "always there is a danger from land mines, one of the most nasty inventions, and they are spread all over the countries." The UN peacekeeping forces won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, for what the Nobel committee called "a decisive contribution to peace under extremely difficult conditions."

among peacekeepers — with 222. Of that, 90 were "accidental" deaths, and 83 were from hostile acts.

"Those experiences, he said, prepared him for the mission at the UN, which took him to some of the most dangerous spots in the world. In Angola, he saw a crowd run after a teenage boy, then stone him to death. Adler told his driver to stop and intervene. "He said, 'Are you crazy? They'll kill us as well.'"

Adler had no idea what the boy had done, but he was sure that stoning was a regular occurrence. "This is what happens in these countries. There is no law, there is no order," Adler says. "Everything is in shambles." Africa, he says, "is going down the drain," with most of the African countries worse off now than they were 10 years ago. And, although many of these countries have natural resources — gold mines, oil, diamonds — few outsiders have any political or financial interest in helping.

This also applies to peacekeeping, Adler says. No Western country is prepared to support a UN operation in Africa. In the Angolan mission, the peacekeepers were African and Eastern European forces; the medical units came from Brazil. (The nations contributing the largest contingents to peacekeeping are Pakistan, Russia, India, Bangladesh, Jordan, Brazil and Poland.) The UN, Adler says, is "an organization created by politicians for politicians. If we understand that, everything else is clear." This might explain why the fate of the medical unit is in jeopardy. The members of the medical staff at UN headquarters, including Adler, are the so-called "gratis officers." The UN does not pay for them. Instead, their expenses and salaries are borne by their home nations.

The General Assembly has taken a series of decisions that will gradually completely phase out the gratis medical officers. The rationale appears to be that gratis officers, like the rest of the UN staff, are supposed to be representative of all the regions of the world. However, these officers come primarily from the Western, and more developed, countries. The Third World countries, which do not have the funds or the professionals to dispatch to New York, are not represented. In the name of equal representation — or lack thereof — the gratis program is being scrubbed.

Adler is frustrated by the General Assembly's stance on gratis officers, but he also is aggravated at Israel's Foreign Ministry for its lack of support for UN programs.

It is true that "we are not in the strongest position here at the United Nations," Adler says with understatement, referring to the standard condemnations of Israel in the General Assembly. But, he argues, "among the professionals here, we are regarded as a country that could contribute very much, and in one way it's a pity that we don't do it."

The doctor acknowledges that the Foreign Ministry has political considerations. "I'm not a politician, but I think this is a good way to assist the international community and also to put ourselves on the map by being involved in humanitarian activities, going to disaster areas."

Adler was warmly accepted and welcomed in his mission at the UN, noting that there was only one country, Algeria, that he could not enter on an Israeli passport.

"I am confident that we [Israelis] could come in here and really support many of the peacekeeping operations. We have people who are experienced in field work. We have many excellent doctors," says Adler, who also served for two years in the early 1990s as director-general of Magen David Adom.

"It's a political decision. If Israel does not offer this, there will be no other officer coming here. And I don't believe that there is any interest in Israel today to have anyone come to replace me."

Adler retired as the director of the emergency medicine department of Shaare Zedek Hospital, where he worked for two decades, before coming to the UN.

He was a highly trained and experienced physician, but he could not use a computer. Now, in his cramped space at the UN — decorated with posters of Jerusalem, a photograph of his car, a bumper sticker calling for freedom for Ron Arad, and drawings by his five-year-old granddaughter — Adler points proudly to the computer he uses daily. He says he is going to retire again and intends to study public health at Hebrew University, where he also has taught.

Although he has been involved in public health for many years, he never had the formal education. Now the time has come, he says as he prepares to leave New York. "If I managed a computer, I can manage public health."

Smile! You're on candid pen

Agent X steps out of his cool night. He adjusts his glasses. They are not ordinary glasses, unless everyone walks around with video-equipped specs.

Thanks to his Global Positioning System, he is hot on the trail of a cheating husband / jewel thief / humorous smuggler / terrorist (pick one), and with the help of his infrared binoculars, he's got the bad guy in his sights. Checking that he's brought along his left thumb (there's a super-sensitive microphone tucked under the fingernail), he sets off to get his man.

That kind of stuff really happens — not just in the movies but in real life, right here in Jerusalem. The only fictional detail is that the Jag is really a nondescript white Subaru (and no one in real life goes by the name "X"). James Bond lives, going by the name Amit Systems, a furtive Jerusalem company headquartered in a signless bunker-like building in Beit Hakerem (the perfect location for a covert operation like this: with all the no-entrys and twisting one-way streets of this neighborhood, it's nearly impossible to find the place).

Ari Gottesmann, a soft-spoken, handsome young bachelor born in Oklahoma 27 years ago, is Amit's marketing and sales director. His office is crammed with gadgetry you wouldn't believe. There are eight cameras trained on you at this very moment," he said, which for some reason I found unsettling, despite his genial, laid-back demeanor. There were also God knows how many microphones, including one that was mine (I didn't have to tell Ari I was recording him; a little box strapped to his waist vibrated when we shook hands, alerting him that I was equipped).

Amit provides such services as surveillance, counter-surveillance, sleuthing, detective work;

It's almost surprising to hear that real people come to Amit with real-life problems.

"A lot of yeshivas use our ultraviolet kit, to find out who's stealing money from their pushke boxes."

"Electric-shock briefcases — that's a big item. A diamond dealer transporting his goods might set his briefcase down at the airport, for example, to fill out a ticket. Someone grabs it and takes off. The dealer presses a little remote-control button and wham! 40,000 volts. The thief is nailed to the floor, and he's going to lie there unable to move for two minutes."

"We do background checks on people and check resumes. We work with hotels that want to examine their service. We'll go in there, acting like a difficult customer, to see how the reception clerk handles it. Does he call the supervisor, does he yell at the client, does he insult him, or does he try to calm him down?"

"Our cameras nabbed a factory worker stealing tons and tons of humous. We caught a guy dumping mud and concrete on his neighbor's car."

"Wife-beating, cheating, child abuse; or a babysitter drugging a crying baby with a sleeping pill or maybe slipping vodka into its milk to stop the crying. Old-age homes: it could be something as simple as a man with a bladder problem, and no one is changing his undergarment. With our cameras, you can see no one has come in for the whole day to take care of him. It's very common."

They get a lot of business from the haredi sector, which likes to take care of things quietly, without going outside the community, especially to the police. "A wife wants to protect her kids, what can she do? She can't prove anything; she's going to go to the Beit Din? A woman's testimony is not valid in religious court. But if she comes in with a tape, showing what her husband is doing..."

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

"You saw 'Mission: Impossible' with Tom Cruise? He's looking around the room and he's got a microphone in his glasses... For \$6,000 I'll get you a pair of those glasses"

it also sells and rents such wizardry as motion detectors, wireless transmitters, mikes that can hear through concrete walls up to 20 cm thick, magic-wand bug detectors and, if you really want one and have money to burn, they could even get you a jet-pack. "But that's not something most Israelis need."

Trying not to appear too impressed, I thought I'd ask a ridiculous question. "Could you sell a fully loaded, authentic, just-like-in-the-movies Batmobile, with all the gizmos?"

"No problem." No kidding! Even with the pole in the middle that can turn the car around?

That, he had to admit, is a bit beyond them — though, moving over to Superman, you can get X-ray equipment that sees through walls.

Or how about a video recorder that can record up to 560 hours on one cassette? That's 40 days — and you can watch the whole thing in only three hours.

"There's no limit to what can be done, it's only a matter of whether you can pay for it."

Amit's brochure includes something called Spy Spray. "It detects drugs in a room. If you have a child or a worker who you suspect is taking drugs, you spray it around the room, and if there are traces of, say, cocaine, the spray will change color."

There's also Ultra Violet Spray, which invisibly coats wayward fingers for several days; and Envelope Spray, which renders an envelope invisible, allowing you to see inside without opening it. After two minutes, the envelope returns to normal. No home should be without it.

Ari showed me his computer. So what, I said, I've got one too. In a few seconds, four pictures appeared on his screen: real-time surveillance film, transmitted live from France. We watched the goings-on in two offices, a warehouse, and a street scene. He could freeze a frame and zoom in close enough to read a license plate. He even manipulated the camera, turning it this way and that — from thousands of kilometers away.

A company that had suddenly lost a lot of clients came to Amit for help to find out why. Turns out the owner's trusted secretary was having an affair with an executive from his competitor, and she was giving the boyfriend copies of secret documents. The solution? Simple. Amit installed cameras on the office photocopier, inside and above, to see who was photocopying what. Case solved.

The security services bring in a lot of business, say, for anti-terrorism devices. They'll ask Amit to develop specialized items like eyeglasses with a camera inside.

"You saw Mission: Impossible with Tom Cruise? He's looking around the room and he's got a microphone in his glasses and an earphone in his ear. Everything he sees, everything he hears, is being transmitted to someone sitting in a car with a computer. For \$6,000 I'll get you a pair of those glasses."

Missing persons. Stolen cars. When former chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef lost his wheels, it was reported that high-level contacts with the Palestinians got 'em back in no time. But in fact, it was low-level contacts. "I'm not saying we did it," Ari said sagely. "But this is how it's done. We have such contacts. We have agents who do this kind of thing."

"Journalists are some of our biggest customers. Lapel cameras, surveillance equipment in pens, that sort of thing." (And I call myself a journalist.)

Amit created the perfect product for the Israeli market: tiny video- and audio-recording equipment implanted in a cell phone. "It's our greatest toy. Everybody's got a cell phone, nobody would think to suspect it (until now)."

Ari conceded that the bad guys can get a leg up with such techno-toys, but sometimes, if his salespeople are suspicious, they will decline to sell a product. "We like to give the weaker side, the vulnerable, an advantage."

One can only conclude that Big Brother is watching. "Definitely. But you can have him on your side, protecting you."

Where to eat in Israel

- EILAT**
TANDOORI Indian Restaurant — The only restaurant in Israel where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Live traditional Indian dancing daily. King's Wharf Lagoonia Hotel. Tel. Fax: 07-533 879, 636 6674. Open noon-3:30 p.m.; 8 p.m.-midnight
- HERZLIYA PITIAH**
TANDOORI Indian Restaurant — Only restaurant where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Buffet Lunch NIS 45 (children NIS 23). Open noon-3 p.m.; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Mercazin Building, 32 Maskit St. Tel. 09-954 8702, Tel/Fax 954 8769.
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- JERUSALEM**
ANGELO RESTORANTE ITALIANO — Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country..." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. Kasher Dairy. Call owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenzanz for reservations. 9 Horfanas. Tel. 02-623 6095.
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KOHENOOOR Kasher Indian Restaurant — Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Fink. Buffet lunch NIS 47 (children NIS 24) Open 12-4 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crown Plaza. Tel. 02-688 8867, Tel/Fax. 02-663 6667.
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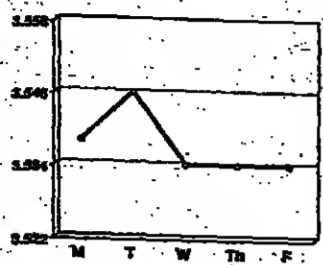
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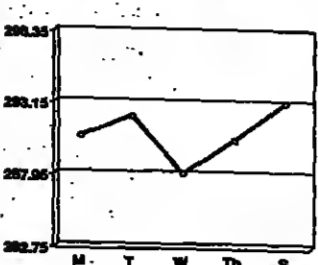
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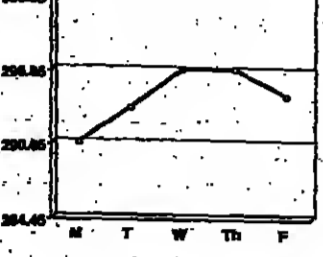
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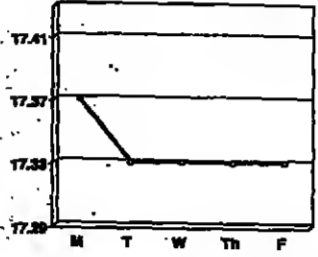
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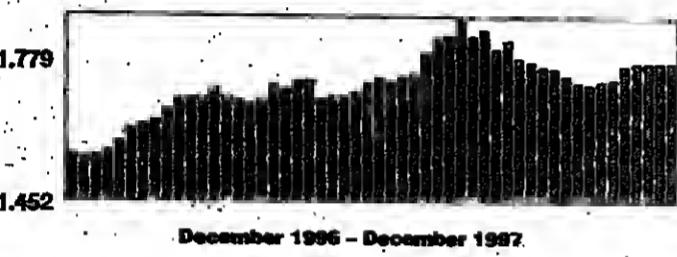
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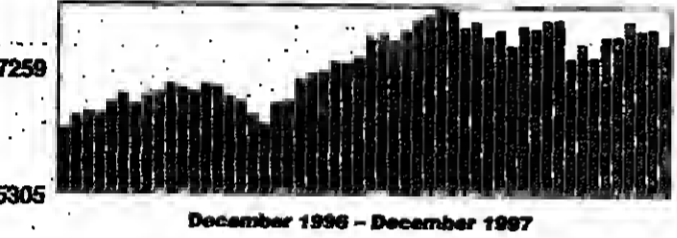
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A Minnesota, U.S.A. native with a degree in accounting, Tzemaeh worked in South Africa for 17 years as a share trader, technical analyst, investment analyst and portfolio manager before becoming general manager of equities for a pension and provident fund with \$1 billion in assets. He made aliyah in 1996 with his wife and seven children ("my most valuable investments") and a firm commitment to treating all clients with respect and honesty.

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Following Leumi deal with workers

Banking sector to operate Fridays

Word in the banking system yesterday was that the banks will continue operating six days per week, following an agreement reached over the weekend between Bank Leumi's management and workers committee.

Under the agreement, the bank will be open for six days while employees will work five days,

with some given a free day on Friday, and some on Sunday. The arrangement is due to begin on or around January 15.

Until now, the banks had agreed to transfer to a five-day week, while Bank Hapoalim and First International Bank said they would operate a service center on Fridays. However, these agreements

were conditional on Friday being declared a non-business day. Examiner of Banks Zeev Abeles can only announce this if at least 50% of all branches in the banking system close on Fridays.

Such a situation will only come about if Discount Bank employees and management also agree on a transfer to a five-day week.

Discount Bank chairman Arye Mintzovich, workers committee chairperson Riki Bacher and Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz, were due to meet last night.

Meanwhile, the Bank Leumi workers committee has resolved not to allow Edmond Safra to purchase the bank, in view of his ownership of the First

International Bank and other competitor banks in Switzerland, committee chairman Louis Roth said. "We have a definite feeling that the general manager of the First International has very particular plans as to what he wants to do with Bank Leumi, and we do not propose to let one man hold such power in Israeli banking," Roth said. (Globes)



New apartments for Herzliya's Marina

Yehoshua Kalman, managing-director of Or-Yam (from right), Shlomo Nehama, director-general of Arison Investments, Yair Yisraeli, central region director of Shikun Ovdim, and Nahum Hadasi, managing-director of Shikun Ovdim, put on their hard hats before checking out the Island project in the Herzliya marina on which their companies are collaborating. Construction began recently on the project, which is to include 350 apartments with a combined value of NIS 1 trillion.

Africa Israel to invest \$30m. in Prague project

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Africa Israel Investments said yesterday that it will invest some \$30 million in a real estate project in the Czech Republic.

The project includes a shopping mall, motel and residences. It will be built in the center of Prague on an 11-dunam plot which the company bought for \$3.4m.

The six-story tall shopping mall, of 31,000 square meters, will be built above the Flora metro station. Three additional floors will be built underground.

In a statement, the company said that it expects to complete the shopping mall and the 1,000-car parking lot within four years. The motel will be completed in the fifth year.

Zalman Stempier, Africa Israel's vice president of business development, said that the company sees the Czech Republic as a preferred area for investments. "Africa Israel continues to develop its business in Eastern Europe, Israel and other places in real estate and any other area which allows long-term business development and is expected to generate high returns," he said.

MLM sales \$133 in 1997

By AREH O'SULLIVAN

Israel Aircraft Industries' MLM Division, which manufactures the Arrow missile, said its sales last year came to \$133 million and it expects to sell \$145.3 million worth of equipment next year. Figures for net income were not disclosed.

The figures were released during a tour of their Beer Yaakov plant by MK Meir Shalev, chairman of the Knesset Defense Budget Committee.

"The employees at MLM are obligated to support the development, production and deployment of the Arrow batteries to defend the state of Israel," said Yisrael Livnat, director of the plant. Livnat added that MLM was seeking new markets for others of their products such as small satellites launcher vehicles, air combat and training/debriefing systems.

"The excellent quality of the IAI's MLM division has to be maintained as it is an iron fist in protecting the state of Israel," Shalev said, according to an IAI statement.

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PROSPECTUS PIA-TARGET-(MATARA) MUTUAL FUND

Notice regarding the publication of a prospectus

Fund Manager Leumi-PIA Trust Management Company Ltd. (Member of the Bank Leumi le-Israel Group of Companies)

Open Fund

According to section 31(b) (2) of the Joint Investment Trusts Law, 5754-1994 (hereinafter: "the Law") notice is hereby given that a prospectus has been published as follows:

Offering of Units to Foreign Residents Only

An unlimited number of registered Fund units of a nominal value of one U.S. dollar (hereinafter - "dollar") are offered at the unit price, plus an increment of 1% or less as detailed in Chapter A of this Prospectus.

The said units are being offered commencing 29 December 1997 until 28 December 1998, and will, subject as provided in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Chapter A of the Prospectus, be sold on those days when trading takes place in Israel and abroad as defined in paragraph 1(a) of Chapter A of the Prospectus.

Payment for the units shall be made only in dollars out of a non-resident foreign currency deposit account of a foreign resident.

The Fund's Investment Policy and transactions for the Fund (see Chapter F of the Prospectus).

- The Fund Agreement provides that:
 - At least 30% of the net value of the Fund assets will be all or any of the assets set out below; notwithstanding this, an investment at a lower rate than that mentioned for a period not exceeding two trading days will not be considered a deviation from such rate.
 - The provisions of subclause (a) of this clause may be varied by amending the Fund Agreement without requiring the sanction of the unit holders in general meeting.
 - Subject as provided above, in the provision contained in paragraph 3(i) of Chapter F of the Prospectus and provisions of the law, the Fund Manager may invest the Fund's resources at his absolute discretion and is also empowered to fix the cash amount to be included in the Fund's assets from time to time.
- Unless otherwise resolved by the Board of Directors of the Fund Manager, at least 50% of the net value of the Fund assets will be all or any of the assets set out below; notwithstanding this, an investment at a lower rate than that mentioned for a period not exceeding two trading days will not be considered a deviation from such a rate.
- Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Fund Manager may purchase for the Fund foreign securities and options traded abroad (in the Prospectus called "foreign options") at a rate not exceeding 75% of the net value of the Fund assets, provided the investment in options will not exceed the rate mentioned in paragraph 4 hereof (see also Paragraph 3(a) of Chapter F of the Prospectus).
- Pursuant to the provisions of the law, the value of options held by the Fund, apart from Maof (Call 1 Options), options is not to exceed 10% of the net value of the Fund assets, and the value thereof, together with the value of option warrants held in the Fund, shall not exceed 30% of the net value of the Fund assets (see also paragraph 3(b) of Chapter F of the Prospectus). Details concerning the nature of the options and risks involved in investing and writing options are set out in paragraph 1(c) of Chapter F of the Prospectus.
- The Fund Manager may carry out the following transactions, subject to the provisions of the Law:
 - Purchase, sale and writing of options and futures contracts.
 - Effecting a sale short.
 - Lending or signing a lending agreement of securities, for the purpose of a sale transaction effected short provided this is not for any other fund being managed by it.

Transactions and Commitments for the Fund

The Fund Agreement provides that the Trust Manager may, without the sanction of a meeting of unit holders, effect any transaction and undertake any commitment for the Fund (apart from increasing the Fund Manager's and Trustee's remuneration) which are not prohibited by the Fund Agreement, provided that such act may be effected and commitment undertaken by law, as the case may be, without the approval of such a meeting.

The Fund's Major Investments in the year ended 30.9.1997

The average major investments of the Fund (according to holdings at the end of each month) in the year ended 30.9.97 were as follows:

	as a % of net value of Fund's assets
Foreign bonds	72
Shares traded in Israel	5
Unlinked government debentures and loans	4
Cash in foreign currency	16

Data concerning the yield of the Fund's Units in correlation to the changes in various indices:

Yield of fund's units calculated as based on redemption prices, as published in Stock Exchange's listing Dollar terms	Rate of Change in year ending	
	30.9.97	30.9.96
Consumer Price Index (as per the index relating to the last month of each period)	6.6	5.7
Representative rate of exchange of the \$	8.7	11.4
	8.6	7.5

Permit of Controller of Foreign Currency to operate the Fund

The Permit of the Controller of Foreign Currency, including the various conditions for operating the Fund, are set out in Appendix F to the Prospectus. The permit will expire on 31.12.98 unless extended prior to its expiration.

Cumulative Fund (see Chapter N of the Prospectus)

Unless otherwise decided by the board of directors of the Fund Manager, the Fund will be cumulative and accordingly the Fund Manager will not be entitled to make payments of the unit holders.

"Unrestricted Fund"

The Fund is an "unrestricted fund". Details of the tax provisions applicable to an unrestricted fund are set out in paragraph 6 of Chapter O of the Prospectus, under the heading "Taxation".

Annual Fees of Fund Manager and Trustee (see Chapter J of this Prospectus)

Under the Fund Agreement, the Fund Manager is entitled to receive an annual fee equivalent to 4% of the average annual value of the Fund's assets as calculated for the purpose of fixing the unit price, but unless otherwise decided by the Fund Manager, it will receive an annual fee equal to 1.5% of the aforementioned value.

The Trustee is entitled, under the Fund Agreement, to receive, and receives, an annual fee equal to 0.2% of the aforementioned value.

Expressions used in the Prospectus

Expressions used in the Law and in the regulations made thereunder, will bear the same meanings when used in this Prospectus, save where the context otherwise requires.

English Translation

The Hebrew version of the Fund Agreement, certificates of participation in the Fund and of the Prospectus are the exclusive, binding text. The translator of the Prospectus has certified that the English translation of the Prospectus is a faithful translation of the Hebrew original (the certificate appears as Appendix I of the Prospectus).

Submission of Applications

Applications for the purchase of the units offered are to be lodged with Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. and the other members of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (hereinafter: "TASE") through the TASE clearing house, the full amount of the price due in respect of units sold pursuant to orders lodged by it.

A copy of the Prospectus and of the Securities Authority's permit for the publication thereof will be filed with the Registrar of Companies and the TASE no later than the first business day following the Prospectus date.

Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained at all branches of Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. and from the other members of the TASE.

Date of the Prospectus: 30 Kislev, 5758
29 December, 1997.

The Trustee: Kesselman & Kesselman Trust Co. (1971) Ltd.

"In this Prospectus 'Foreign Resident' is as defined in the Currency Control Law 5738-1978, and in the Currency Control Permit 5738-1978 as set out in Appendix E hereof. Under the said Currency Control Permit (section: Permit of Controller of Foreign Currency to operate the Fund), Israeli residents (including holders of an exemption) are not entitled to acquire units of this Fund.

LEUMI PIA

Coventry upset Man Utd; Klinsmann helps Spurs gain draw with Arsenal

LONDON (AP) — Goals by Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby in the last four minutes earned Coventry an unlikely 3-2 win over Manchester United yesterday to stop the Reds going eight points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Alex Ferguson's team looked set for a 2-1 win at Highfield Road until Huckerby was felled by Hemming Berg and Dublin fired home a penalty in the 86th minute. Then Huckerby weaved through the United defense in the final minute to score a winner for the Sky Blues and improve their chances of dropping into Division One.

Although second place Blackburn were held 2-2 at home by Crystal Palace, Ferguson's team had their 6-point lead cut to five after losing for only the second time this season.

United, who led after goals from Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and England star Teddy Sheringham, have 46 points from 21 games and Rovers have 41. Third place Chelsea, 39 from 20, can trim United's lead to four points today by winning at Southampton.

Blackburn twice came from behind to earn a point against Palace at Ewood Park.

Bruce Dyer gave the visitors an early lead but Scottish international Kevin Gallacher leveled with his 11th of the season. Paul Warhurst regained the lead for Palace soon after half time but Chris Sutton's 13th goal of the campaign 13 minutes from the end salvaged a point for Roy Hodgson's team.

In a later game, Steve McManaman scored twice as Liverpool won 2-1 at Newcastle to climb one place into fourth, nine points behind the leader.

Steve Watson headed Newcastle ahead after 16 minutes from Keith Gillespie's free kick but McManaman fired a 20-yard shot in off the post after 31 before adding a second two minutes before halftime from Michael Owen's right wing cross.

Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla failed to score with two close-range headers and Keith Gillespie wasted two shooting chances as Newcastle created plenty of opportunities to turn the game around and rekindle their own hopes of climbing towards the top.

Liverpool manager Roy Evans again kept US international goalkeeper Brad Friedel, hired last week, on the bench with David James holding on to the No. 1 spot.

Jurgen Klinsmann, who scored 29 goals in one season for Spurs two years ago, didn't score on his return to the Tottenham lineup.

But the reappearance of the popular 33-year-old German captain at White Hart Lane restored confidence to the team in a 1-1 tie with north London neighbor Arsenal. Klinsmann, who teamed up in attack with talented Frenchman David Ginola, has rejoined Spurs from Sampdoria.

Allan Nielsen fired Spurs ahead in the 28th minute but Ray Parlour's deflected shot gained the sixth-place Gunners an equalizer.

Barnsley's 1-0 victory over Derby and Everton's 3-2 win over Bolton meant that Spurs slipped one place to second from last.



SCANDINAVIAN POWER — Manchester United's Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer puts the ball past Coventry City's Swedish goalkeeper Magnus Hedman in yesterday's action. Coventry upset the Reds 3-2. (Reuters)

Former Derby striker Ashley Ward fired Barnsley's winner against his old club while towering Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson hit all three for Everton against Bolton, who replied through Gadii Bergsson and Scott Sellars.

Barnsley remain last of the 20 teams but now have 18 points from 21 games. Everton and Spurs have 20 and Southampton and Bolton have 21.

In a low-quality game at Elland Road, Dutch forward Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink fired Leeds ahead against Aston Villa in the

79th minute but Yugoslav striker Savo Milosevic made it 1-1 five minutes from the end.

There was another late equalizer for 10-man Sheffield Wednesday in a 1-1 tie at Leicester when Andy Booth also scored five minutes from the end.

Steve Guppy gave the Foxes a 28th-minute lead and Wednesday's Dejan Stefanovic was sent off two minutes before the halftime break for a second

yellow card. While Leicester didn't make the one-man advantage count at Filbert Street, West Ham took full advantage at Wimbledon.

An own goal by Wimbledon defender Alan Kimble was soon followed by another Hammers goal by Paul Kitson. Although Stale Solbakken replied with the last kick of the game, West Ham, who kept French international goalkeeper Bernard Lama on the bench with Canada's Craig Forrest

as the starter, held on for a victory that followed eight away losses in a row.

Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest, both neck-and-neck in Division One as they bid to return to the Premier League after relegation last season, won their games and have 51 points from 25 games.

Bryan Robson's Boro downed Stockport 3-1 while Dave Bassett's Forest gained a 3-2 win at Manchester City.

Premier League										
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts			
Man United	21	14	4	3	49	16	46			
Blackburn	21	11	8	2	38	21	41			
Chelsea	20	12	3	5	46	20	39			
Liverpool	21	11	4	5	36	19	37			
Arsenal	21	10	5	4	30	23	35			
Derby	21	9	5	7	34	28	32			
West Ham	21	10	1	10	28	32	31			
Leicester	21	7	7	7	25	21	28			
Aston Villa	21	7	5	9	25	27	26			
Newcastle	20	7	5	8	21	25	26			
Wimbledon	20	6	6	8	21	24	24			
Coventry	21	5	8	8	20	28	23			
Crystal Palace	21	5	8	8	20	28	23			
Sheff Wed	21	6	5	10	32	44	23			
Southampton	20	6	3	11	24	30	21			
Bolton	21	4	9	0	19	33	21			
Everton	21	5	5	11	20	31	20			
Manchester	21	5	5	11	19	37	20			
Barnsley	21	5	3	13	19	51	18			

Division One										
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts			
Huddersfield	25	15	6	4	43	20	51			
Not Forest	25	15	6	4	43	23	51			
Sheff United	25	12	10	3	40	25	46			
Charlton	25	13	5	7	46	34	44			
Sunderland	24	12	7	5	38	22	43			
Wolves	25	12	6	7	32	26	42			
West Brom	25	12	5	8	27	24	41			
Stockport	25	11	5	9	43	35	38			
Swindon	25	11	5	9	32	36	38			
Birmingham	25	9	9	7	25	19	36			
Bradford	25	8	10	7	25	34	34			
Sheff Wed	25	8	7	10	30	40	31			
QPR	24	7	9	8	29	26	30			
Ipswich	24	7	9	8	24	26	30			
Northwich	24	8	4	10	24	34	24			
Stoke	25	7	8	10	27	33	29			
Reading	25	7	8	10	24	37	27			
Oxford United	25	7	6	12	30	35	27			
Port Vale	25	7	5	13	26	35	25			
Crewe	25	7	4	14	28	40	25			
Man City	25	6	6	13	28	31	24			
Tranmere	24	6	6	12	28	34	24			
Huddersfield	25	6	6	13	25	39	24			
Bury	25	4	12	9	23	33	24			
Portsmouth	25	6	5	12	29	37	23			

Division Two										
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts			
Watford	25	16	7	2	39	16	55			
Bristol City	25	16	4	5	44	20	52			
Northampton	25	10	9	6	30	21	39			
Grimsby	24	10	8	6	31	19	38			
Bristol Rovers	25	10	7	8	37	38	37			
Fulham	25	10	7	8	30	26	37			
Oldham	24	9	9	6	38	30	36			
York	25	9	9	7	32	29	36			
Diesterfield	25	8	12	5	23	19	36			
Millwall	24	10	5	9	29	30	35			
Wrexham	24	8	10	6	31	27	34			
Blackpool	25	9	6	10	34	39	33			
Bournemouth	25	8	9	8	31	29	33			
Preston	25	9	5	11	31	27	32			
Wycombe	25	7	9	9	32	36	30			
Walsall	24	8	6	10	26	29	30			
Wigan	24	8	5	11	36	37	29			
Gillingham	24	7	7	10	27	37	26			
Southend	25	7	6	12	29	46	27			
Luton	24	6	8	10	27	37	26			
Plymouth	25	5	10	10	30	46	25			
Carlisle	25	6	5	14	29	43	23			
Breastford	24	5	8	11	25	40	23			
Barnley	24	4	9	11	23	34	21			

Division Three										
Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts			
Notts County	25	14	8	3	40	24	50			
Peterborough	25	11	10	4	45	24	43			
Lincoln City	25	11	9	5	27	25	42			
Rotherham	25	11	8	6	43	36	41			
Raunet	25	12	5	8	38	30	41			
Exeter	25	10	10	5	36	27	40			
Chesham	25	12	4	9	36	31	40			
Torquay	25	10	0	7	35	33	38			
Hartlepool	25	8	13	4	36	28	37			
Scarborough	24	11	4	9	36	34	37			
Leyton Orient	25	10	7	8	33	27	37			
Macclesfield	24	9	7	8	33	27	36			
Southport	24	9	6	9	30	31	33			
Colchester	23	8	7	8	36	35	31			
Camb United	24	7	10	7	32	30	31			
St Albans	24	8	6	10	36	37	30			
Rochdale	25	9	2	14	30	31	29			
Cardiff	24	5	14	5	23	24	29			
Manfield	24	6	9	9	31	31	27			
Darlington	23	6	0	9	29	34	26			
Hull	25	6	4	15	37	49	22			
Swansea	25	6	4	15	23	40	22			
Brighton	25	4	9	12	22	35	21			
Doncaster	24	1	6	17	16	45	9			

Birmingham 0, Tranmere 0; Bradford 1, Huddersfield 1; Bury 1, Crewe 1; Manchester City 2, Nottingham Forest 3; Huddersfield 3, Stockport 1; Oxford United 1, Sunderland 1; Port Vale 0, Wolves 2; Queens Park Rangers 1, Reading 1; Sheffield United 4, Charlton 1; Swindon 0, Ipswich 2; West Bromwich Albion 1, Stoke 1.

Blackpool 1, Wrexham 2; Bristol Rovers 5, Bournemouth 3; Diesterfield 1, York 1; Fulham 1, Grimsby 0; Grimsby 3, Preston 1; Millwall 0, Luton 2; Northampton 3, Walsall 2; Oldham vs. Barnsley ppd (waterlogged field); Southend 1, Wycombe 2; Watford 1, Plymouth 0; Wigan 0, Carlisle 2.

Chesham 1, Southport 0; Exeter 1, Torquay 1; Leyton Orient 0, Doncaster 0; Macclesfield 1, Rochdale 0; Mansfield 2, Lincoln City 2; Notts County 2, Hartlepool 0; Peterborough 1, Brighton 2; Rotherham 5, Hull 4; Scarborough vs. Darlington ppd (waterlogged field); Shrewsbury 3, Cardiff 2; Swansea 0, Barnet 2.

SPORTS in brief

Poborsky leaves Manchester Utd for Benfica

LISBON (Reuters) — Czech international midfielder Karel Poborsky, frustrated at being unable to secure a first-team place at Manchester United, joined Benfica on Saturday for an undisclosed fee. "Benfica are an excellent club with a great international reputation," said Poborsky, who moved to United for £3.5 million (\$5.9 million) from Slavia Prague after the 1996 European championship. "Here I can play more often than in Manchester which was a factor in the move." Poborsky, who signed a three-and-a-half-year deal with the Portuguese club, is the first major acquisition for new chairman Joao Vale e Azevedo and his Scottish manager Graeme Souness. He is likely to make his debut against league leaders Porto on January 3. Benfica are currently fourth in the standings, 11 points behind unbeaten Porto.

Iran choose French chateau as World Cup base

YSSINGEAUX, France (AP) — Iran's team for the 1998 World Cup will be based in a chateau belonging to the French national pastry school in the town of Yssingeaux, the mayor's office said yesterday. The Chateau du Montbarrier, home to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Pâtisserie (National Pastry School) was chosen after an inspection by Iran's ambassador to France and the team trainer. The Iranian team chose Chateau du Montbarrier after it met several strict requirements regarding the practice of Islam, food and the presence of women, said Bernard Gallot, deputy mayor. The town of Yssingeaux is located about 40-km southwest of Saint-Etienne, one of the 10 French cities hosting the 1998 World Cup. Security was another factor in choosing Yssingeaux. The US, who will meet Iran in round one, insisted that the Iranian team be located at least 100-km away for security reasons. The US team will be based in Saint-Jean-d'Ardieres, a village of 1,200 people on the Rhone River, which is about 120-km northeast of Yssingeaux.

Sri Lanka beat India in 3rd one-day int'l

MARGAO, India (Reuters) — Sri Lanka beat India by five wickets in the third and final one-day international yesterday. Scores: India 228-6 in 50 overs. Sri Lanka 229-5 in 48.2 overs.

Britain urges crackdown on soccer hooligans

LONDON (AP) — Convicted soccer hooligans could be banned from traveling to France for next year's World Cup, British Home Secretary Jack Straw said last week.

Straw said he was urging police, prosecutors and the courts to take advantage of a special law which allows them to impose "restriction orders" on fans who have been convicted of soccer-related offenses. "I now expect to see vigorous use of these powers over the coming months," Straw said. "For the convicted hooligan, the issue of a restriction order will mean a visit to the police station — not the World Cup in France." Under a law passed in 1989, courts can impose restriction orders on hooligans to prevent them from traveling abroad for matches involving teams from England and Wales.

Those subjected to the orders are required to report to a police station when the match is taking place. Straw, however, said he was concerned that the power to impose restriction orders had only been used 10 times so far. "It's for that reason that I have written to magistrates' courts, the Crown Prosecution Service and indeed the crown courts to remind them of the power to give restriction orders in the expectation that when they are more familiar with the power they will use it far more effectively," he said.

The Football Supporters' Association said Straw's proposal would have little effect. "These new rules will only apply to people who are convicted between now and the World Cup finals, not to people who already have convictions," said Alison Pilling, international officer for the association.

"It will all depend on the courts and then the police who will have to enforce the restriction orders. It is not really going to have much effect as a measure against hooligans and as well as that, I think it is going to prove to be unworkable." Sports Minister Tony Banks noted that some hooligans were "very calculating, professional-type people with jobs, who are using football as the vehicle for violence." "These sort of people, knowing this, of course, are likely to be very much on best behavior between now and the World Cup finals," he said.

But Straw, who also warned fans not to travel to France unless they have tickets, said the government would do everything possible to prevent the country's "international reputation being ruined by a mindless minority." "What we want to get across to the French authorities is that the overwhelming majority of people who go from this country to watch soccer games during the World Cup will be extremely well behaved, just as they were during Euro '96 or are on every Saturday of the football season."

Straw announced that Britain, as part of its presidency of the European Union, will hold a seminar on soccer hooliganism in Blackburn on February 27-28. The meeting will be attended by government, soccer and police officials from around Europe. Straw said Britain would work closely with French authorities to prevent English fans from causing trouble during the World Cup.

Report: World Cup 'a financial abyss' for French government

PARIS (AP) — Soccer's World Cup 1998 will cost the French government billions of francs, largely because of the controversial Stade de France stadium, according to a study published last week.

The confidential preliminary report by the Cours des Comptes, France's official accounting office, suggested the stadium site in a Paris suburb was chosen for political reasons and is suffering heavy cost overruns. Overall, the World Cup could cost the government "in excess of several billion francs more than predicted," said the report published by the satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo*.

The respected daily *Le Monde* said in an editorial that the stadium "is becoming a financial abyss." There was no hard estimate on losses. The budget for the June-July competition in 10 French cities is officially estimated at 8.5 billion francs (\$1.44 billion), more than half to be state-financed. In 1993, then-Prime Minister Edouard Balladur picked the northern suburb of Saint Denis for the 80,000-seat stadium over a site in Melun-Senart further outside the capital.

The roughly 3 billion-franc (\$1 billion) project was granted to a consortium of construction giants: Bouygues, Dumez and Generale des Eaux.

Australia in charge despite Donald burst

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Australia built a potentially match-winning lead against South Africa in the first Test yesterday despite a top order collapse in their second innings.

Leading by 123 runs from the first innings, Australia slumped to 12 for three with fast bowler Allan Donald claiming all three wickets in a superb opening spell with the new ball.

But captain Mark Taylor steadied Australian nerves with an unbeaten 30 as the home side reached 67 for four at close of play at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

With two days left to play, Australia lead by 190 runs with six wickets in hand, a virtually impregnable position given a visibly deteriorating wicket.

Ricky Ponting, who scored a century in Australia's first innings, was the other batsman not out on eight.

Resuming on 94 for four, South Africa were dismissed for 186 just before tea in reply to Australia's first innings of 309.

The unpredictable nature of the wicket has been reflected in the scoring rate. Barely two runs an over were averaged over the first three days and there is little to suggest the batsmen will find it any easier on the fourth and fifth days. Donald produced an inspiring 10-over spell either side of the tea interval to remove opener Matthew Elliott, No. 3 Greg Blewett and Mark Waugh at a cost



TURNED DOWN — Allan Donald appeals unsuccessfully for lbw against Mark Taylor. (Reuters)

of just 14 runs.

South Africa enjoyed another boost when Steve Waugh, who scored a typically dogged 96 in the first innings, was unable to repeat his heroics, falling to fast bowler Shaun Pollock for 17.

Earlier, leg-spinner Shane Warne shouldered the bulk of the workload for Australia, taking three wickets over 42 overs at a cost of just 64 runs.

Fast bowler Michael Kasprovic mached Warne's three-wicket haul.

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Haifa top AC Milan in friendly

Zohar quits Palace for Maccabi Haifa

By ORI LEWIS

A combined side from Hapoel and Maccabi Haifa gained a deserved, hard-fought win 4-3 on penalties over AC Milan in a soccer friendly at Kiryat Eliezer last night after the match ended 1-1 at 90 minutes.

If the Italians had thought the encounter would just be an exhibition match, they had a surprise in store. The Israelis were the ones who took the initiative from the outset and looked far more like a Serie A club than a group of nameless sparring partners. The first goal came when Maccabi's Alon Mizrahi converted a penalty in the 20th minute after he was fouled in the area by Marcel Desailly.

The fast pace of the match belied its "friendly" status, and some hard tackling from both sides made this look like a competitive fixture. Milan's Ibrahim Ba, the most impressive of all the players on the field, was involved in a fierce exchange with Haifa's Najwan Grayev soon after the goal, and the two had to be separated by the referee. Ba was subsequently booed by the crowd every time he got the ball.

The second half saw the Milanese seize the initiative, but they still could not break through the Haifa defense and Dudu Awat in goal. New recruit Itzik Zohar, who was snapped up by Maccabi Haifa from Crystal Palace yesterday, almost made it 2-0, but his lob from 20 meters was a little too high.

The Milan pressure finally told in the 86th minute when Ba played a 1-2 move with Mauricio Ganz which put him clean through. He shot low and hard into the Haifa goal to level the scores.

Milan botched three penalties in the ensuing shootout at the end of 90 minutes, while Haifa missed twice and it was left to Adoram Casey to seal the win.

Patriots' defense does in Dolphins

Davis's ground game sparks Broncos past Jaguars, 42-17

FOXBORO (AP) — The New England Patriots didn't need any new tricks to beat the Miami Dolphins for the third time this season. Intercepting Dan Marino worked again.

Chris Slade returned an interception 22 yards to set up a touchdown and Todd Collins took the second back 40 yards for another score as the Patriots defense dominated the Dolphins 17-3 Sunday.

Only a 38-yard field goal by Olindo Mare 19 seconds into the fourth quarter kept the Dolphins, with a poor ground game and a passing attack to match, from their first playoff shutout in history, a stretch of 31 games. Miami gained a team-record playoff low of 162 yards.

The Dolphins (9-8) recovered an onside kick after Mare's field goal made the score 17-3, but Marino fumbled the ball away on the next play.

Playing without running back Curtis Martin, who missed his fourth consecutive game with groin and shoulder problems, New England (11-6) advanced to the second round in Pittsburgh next Saturday. Its win also determined the other AFC semifinal matchup — Denver at Kansas City on Sunday.

In what may have been his last game in a Dolphins uniform, Marino struggled for the third time this season against the Patriots, the defending conference champions who clinched the AFC East title with a 14-12 win in Miami last Monday night. He completed only 17 of 43 passes for 141 yards and was sacked four times.

Coach Jimmy Johnson, beaten in his first playoff game with Miami after winning two Super Bowls with Dallas, hasn't said if Marino, the NFL career leader in most passing categories, will be back.

In a 27-24 loss November 23 in New England, two of Marino's three interceptions were returned for touchdowns by Jimmy Hitchcock and Larry Whigham. And last Monday, he fumbled a snap and threw an interception under pressure in the last two minutes, ruining the Dolphins' comeback hopes.

Of Marino's 13 interceptions this season, six came against New England.

For the second time in seven days, Marino was beset by an aggressive pass rush, tight coverage by cornerbacks and frequent drops by his receivers.

When Collins' touchdown 55 seconds into the third quarter gave the Patriots a 14-0 lead, the Patriots had 60 yards on interception returns, just two fewer than the entire Dolphins offense produced to that point.

The Dolphins couldn't even blame the weather. A light overnight snowfall ended before



SHORT GAINER — Patriots QB Drew Bledsoe is tackled by Daryl Gardener of the Miami Dolphins after a 5-yard run in first-quarter action.

dawn and the full house of Patriots fans celebrated under sunny skies with temperatures in the 30s.

New England's offense wasn't especially productive — Drew Bledsoe threw for 139 yards — but it didn't have to be the way the defense was playing.

Slade intercepted a pass tipped by Whigham and returned it to the Miami 29-yard line.

Troy Brown got behind Terrell Buckley up the right sideline for a 24-yard reception in the end zone 4:33 into the second quarter for a 7-0 lead.

Adam Vinatieri, who missed

field goals of 48 and 47 yards in the first half, connected from 22 yards to give the Patriots a 17-0 lead with 1:58 left.

Saturday's game
Broncos 42, Jaguars 17

For a while, the rematch looked like it might be a rerun. But in the fourth quarter, host Denver went for the jugular.

Terrell Davis ran for 184 yards and two touchdowns before leaving in the third quarter with bruised ribs, and backup Derek Loville added 103 yards and two fourth-quarter scores as the Broncos beat Jacksonville 42-17 in an AFC wild-

card game Sunday, avenging last year's playoff loss.

The Minnesota Vikings beat the New York Giants 23-22 in Saturday's early game (reported in yesterday's edition).

"This was a payback," Loville said. "I wasn't even on the team last year, but I know the emotion that surrounded this game."

The Broncos, who squandered a 12-0 lead in their 30-27 loss last January 4, nearly frittered away a 21-0 edge in this one, but pulled away with 310 yards on the ground. It was the third-highest rushing output in Denver history

and its best ever in the postseason.

The Jaguars, seven-point underdogs, got to 21-17 in the third quarter, thanks to Travis Davis' 29-yard blocked-punt return.

But with Denver's Davis, who led the AFC in rushing with 1,750 yards, on the bench, Loville responded.

Loville bolted 25 yards for a touchdown that made it 28-17, then capped an 80-yard drive with an 8-yard run with 3:43 left. As the Broncos attempted to run out the clock, Vaughn Hebrón scored on a 6-yard run.

Loville, who carried the ball

only 25 times for 124 yards in the regular season, was the only healthy Denver tailback. Davis came in with a slightly separated right shoulder, and Hebrón was slowed by a strained left hamstring. But none showed any effects from their injuries.

Battling gusty winds, Denver QB John Elway completed 16 of 24 passes for 223 yards and a touchdown as Denver enjoyed a huge advantage in yardage (511-237) and time of possession (40:59-19:01).

Jacksonville's Mark Brunell was 18-for-32 for 203 yards. Natrone Means had only 40.

The Broncos took advantage of a defense that was the worst in the NFL in allowing third-down conversions. Denver converted its first nine third-down opportunities en route to a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter, scoring on its first three possessions.

Davis' 2-yard scoring run capped a 73-yard opening drive that consumed 7:21.

With 2:37 left in the first quarter, Elway beat the blitz, hitting Rod Smith with a quick pass over the middle for a 43-yard touchdown.

Saturday's box scores

Jacksonville 0 7 10 0-17
Denver 14 7 0 21-42
First Quarter: Denver 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0. Second Quarter: Denver 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0. Third Quarter: Denver 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0. Fourth Quarter: Denver 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0, 7-0-0.
RUSHING—Jacksonville, Means 10-40. Stewart 1-6, Brunell 3-4, Denver 10-Davis 31-104, Loville 11-103, Hebrón 2-28, Elway 1-0.
PASSING—Jacksonville, Brunell 18-32-1203. Denver, Elway 18-29-0-223.
RECEIVING—Jacksonville, McCordell 8-55, J. Smith 6-95, Stewart 3-48, D. Jones 1-57, Mitchell 1-7, Means 1-3. Denver, F. Smith 3-95, Hebrón 4-11, Caldwell 2-22, Green 2-32, Shupe 2-29, Lovell 1-10.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Minnesota 0 3 7 13-22
N.Y. Giants 13 0 0 5-22
First Quarter: NY—FG Dalko 43, 6:25. NY—FG Dalko 22, 2:20. Second Quarter: NY—Pierce 2 pass from Knefel (Dalko) 40:0, 11:33. NY—FG Dalko 41, 4:54. NY—FG Murray 26, 1:47. NY—FG Dalko 51, 1:13. Third Quarter: NY—Hood 4 run (Murray) 10:28. Fourth Quarter: NY—FG Murray 26, 12:45. NY—FG Dalko 22, 7:03. NY—Pierce 30 pass from Cunningham (Murray) 10:1, 1:30. NY—FG Murray 24, 10:01. NY—7 plays, 59 yards, 1:20, 7:17. RUSHING—Minnesota, Smith 16-40, Cunningham 7-39, Hood 5-14, Evans 2-14. New York, Barber 17-29, Moy 10-23, Hampton 3-10, Lane 1-1.
PASSING—Minnesota, Cunningham 15-28-1-203. New York, Knefel 15-20-0-105.
RECEIVING—Minnesota, Carter 6-85, Reed 5-88, Glover 2-15, Hood 1-6, Dalton 1-4. New York, Caldwell 5-53, Patten 5-38, Barber 3-31, Way 1-27, Pierce 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Minnesota, Murray 43 (57%).

NFL Playoff Clinics

Wild Cards

- San Diego at New York
- San Francisco at Pittsburgh
- Seattle at Tampa Bay
- Washington at New England

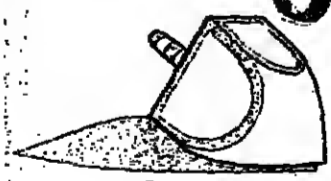
Divisional Playoffs

- Saturday, Jan. 3: New England at Pittsburgh; San Francisco at San Francisco
- Sunday, Jan. 4: Detroit at Tampa Bay at Green Bay; Seattle at Oakland

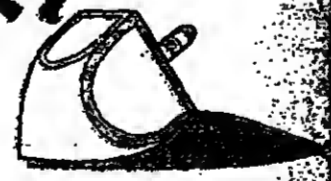
Conference Championships

- Sunday, Jan. 5: Tampa Bay at New York
- Sunday, Jan. 5: San Diego at Pittsburgh
- Sunday, Jan. 5: Seattle at New York
- Sunday, Jan. 5: Tampa Bay at New York

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Probe for East German doping

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Shortly before the World Championship, the head coach of Germany's swimming team has been told that he is under investigation for East German doping practices.

But swimming officials said yesterday the coach, Winfried Leopold, would travel to the championship in Perth, Australia as planned tomorrow.

Leopold has previously admitted that he was linked to doping as an East German coach and as a result had not been able to take a top position in united Germany's swimming for four years.

Leopold, has since strongly renounced doping.

The power of prayer

NAGANO (AP) — Snow started to fall yesterday at Winter Olympic sites, a day after local tourism officials prayed at a Shinto shrine for snowfall.

The tourism association, representing some 800 lodging facilities in Hakuba, held prayers at the shrine of Japan's indigenous religion because their business has been suffering from lack of snow so far this season.

On an ordinary winter day, more than 30,000 skiers come to the village, but the number has been about half this season because there is snow only in the high mountain areas, said Nobuyuki Fukushima, the mayor of Hakuba.

His village will be host for alpine skiing, ski jumping and cross country events in the Winter Olympics, which start February 7.

"We held such prayers because of less snow this year," said Fukushima.

Fukushima said snow had been falling in areas 700 meters above sea level in the high Happo-one range, but not below that level. The area's ski slopes range between 300- and 1,700m above sea level.

He said 50 centimeters of snow fell on December 3 and 20cm on December 15 in high areas, but not touch below 700 meters. Snow at lower altitudes has soon melted, he added.

Weathermen say the El Nino weather pattern will probably mean warmer weather than usual this year. Nagano is the southernmost site ever chosen as host for a Winter Olympics.

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